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178

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ASIATIC TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6447.]

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ERRATA.

Page 290, line 10, for "only" read "wholly."
Page 365, No. 474, line 1, for "Catholics" read "Catholicos."
Page 395, No. 544, line 3, for "Señor Groccard" read "Señor Groizard."

[Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January 1895.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Asiatic Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 6447.]

No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 9, 1894.)

(No. 590.)
Constantinople, December 26, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves, reporting the appointment of Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha, of Mardin, as Mutessarif of the Guendj Sendjak, in the Vilayet of Bitlis, and calling attention to the bad reputation he has earned by cruel and corrupt practices.

Mr. Graves considers that the appointment can hardly fail to be disastrous to the welfare of the vilayet, and I propose mentioning the matter to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Erzeroum, December 9, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha, of Mardin, who was Mutessarif of Bayazid from 1879 to 1881, has been appointed Mutessarif of the Guendj Sandjak, in the Vilayet of Bitlis, and has just passed through Erzeroum on his way to take up his new post.

Although Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha is personally unknown to me, I have the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that he is the same official whose extortionate, cruel, and corrupt practices, while Mutessarif of Bayazid, formed the subject of constant Reports from my predecessors at Erzeroum.

In Colonel Everett's despatches to Her Majesty's Embassy of the 20th January, 1881, Separate, and of the 25th March, 22nd July, 9th September, and the 30th December of the same year, full details are given of Ibrahim Pasha's misdeeds, and, in consequence of the strong representations of Her Majesty's Ambassador, he was suspended, and ultimately dismissed, from office.

The post to which he has now been appointed has been vacant for some time, and is regarded as a difficult and undesirable one. Its occupancy by a Mutessarif whose record is so disgraceful in all respects as that of Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha can hardly fail to be disastrous and to reduce the average of administrative efficiency in Bitlis, already affected by the deplorable condition of the Moush Sandjak in the hands of Hassib Pasha, to a dangerously low ebb.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 9, 1894.)

(No. 611.) *Constantinople, December 30, 1893.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 594 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of four despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the state of the Vilayet of Angora, with special reference to recent troubles at Yuzgat, and reporting the appointment of a new Governor and Special Commission of Inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.) *Angora, December 16, 1893.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of yesterday's date, reporting the sudden removal of Abédin Pasha, Governor-General at Angora, and of Shevki Bey, Governor of Yuzgat.

The former has been replaced by Mentouh Bey, who was Governor-General at Sivas some eighteen months ago, and the latter by Béha Bey, who was Governor at Dédéaghatch about two years ago.

Mentouh Bey was, I believe, dismissed from his last post for reasons similar to those that have brought about Abédin Pasha's removal, viz., inability to prevent disorders among Armenians, whilst Béha Bey sent in his resignation owing to ill-health.

Of Mentouh Bey's antecedents I have learnt little, but Béha Bey I knew personally when he was at Dédéaghatch, where he satisfactorily managed the affairs of his Sandjak, notwithstanding that he had a retrograde Chief in the person of the late Hadji Izzett Pasha. His forced departure was regretted by Christians as well as Mussulmans alike, though he was not considered to have been over partial to the former.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, December 16, 1893.

Sir

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to communicate to you some further information concerning the troubles at Yuzgat.

Though the alleged brutal conduct of the police, as reported in my above-mentioned despatch, had no doubt acted upon the minds of the Christian population, the immediate cause of the assembling of the Armenians, as given by private informants, were the threats of a crowd of Mussulmans who presented themselves at the Governor's official residence and demanded immediate satisfaction for the ill-treatment of the Cadi of Sungurlu, who had been a day or two previously waylaid, robbed, and his harem grossly insulted, by a band of several brigands on the road between Zuzgat and Sungurlu.

The excited Turks of Yuzgat, to which place the Cadi returned to relate his story, expressed their dissatisfaction at the authorities' supposed leniency in permitting such acts by Christians, as they supposed the brigands to have been Armenians, and they threatened to take the law into their own hands.

The Governor's assurances not being considered sufficient, the Turks proceeded in the direction of the church, where the Armenians, in their fright as to what might happen, had assembled.

From which side the first shot was fired is not cleared up, but that shots came from both parties is proved by the fact that one Armenian has died from wounds

inflicted during the affray, though the number of wounded Armenians is not reported. Of the Turks, about ten were wounded, of whom two have subsequently died.

It transpires that the Armenians strongly suspect five Turks as the instigators of the demonstration against them. These five men, they say, have been repeatedly complained of to the authorities as fanatical creators of mischief, and I have been furnished with their names, which I propose giving to the Governor-General here, with a request that a strict inquiry should be made as to the truth of the allegations against them, and that they should be arrested if proved guilty of being the ring-leaders.

The Government cannot deny that the Armenian inhabitants of Yuzgat have hitherto been the most peaceful citizens, and the fact of their being in such a small minority precludes the idea that before applying to the authorities for redress against their grievances, they willingly courted a possible conflict with their Mussulman neighbours, by whom they were bound to be overpowered.

The latest reports go to show that though the Turks and the Greeks have resumed their ordinary vocations, such is not the case as yet with the Armenians, whose fears do not seem to be appeased.

The arrival at Yuzgat of a new Governor, and also a new Chief of Police, as well as a Special Commission of Inquiry from Constantinople, and the reinforcement of the police force, are measures which, it is hoped, will tend to restore confidence in the ability of the Government to maintain order; but if only Christians are arrested in connection with the disturbance of public order, the Armenians will be dissatisfied, and might be pushed by outside agencies to show it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, December 19, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a Special Commission of high Ottoman officials from Constantinople left Angora for Yuzgat this morning. Their names are:—Hilmi Pasha, President, General of Division and member of the Commission of Inspection at the War Office; Osman Pasha, Brigadier-General, member of the Staff at the War Office; Hakki Bey, Colonel, and member of the Gendarmerie Council; Husni Bey, Chief of the Correspondence Department at the Ministry of the Interior; and Mihalaki Effendi, Proctor-General at Pera.

The publicly avowed mission of these officials is to inquire into and report upon the recent troubles at Yuzgat, which were referred to in my despatches of the 14th and 16th instant; but I should not be surprised, seeing the high rank of the persons composing the Commission, if the scope of their labours were widened into an examination of the general grievances of the Armenians of that district with a view to reporting thereon with such recommendations as they may think advisable to prevent a recurrence of recent manifestations, and to put down the few bands of brigands that have been recently formed, and which are suspected of having something more than mere highway robbery as their object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, December 22, 1893.

Sir,

THE contents of several despatches which I have had the honour to address to Her Majesty's Embassy during the last few weeks show that the state of affairs in this district, not to mention the events in the neighbouring Vilayet of Sivas, is far from satisfactory, and has all the appearance of a recrudescence of the events which took place about this time last year in these vilayets, and which, it was hoped, had been suppressed by the severe punishment inflicted on Professor Thoumaian and his

numerous fellow-prisoners, and by the subsequent proclamation of a general amnesty in favour of the other alleged conspirators.

Previous to the events alluded to, the relations between Mussulmans and Armenians in this district seem to have been not less friendly than those existing elsewhere in this country between the dominant race and the Christian population. But at the present time the ill-feeling easily engendered by difference of creed seems to be in course of serious development, with little likelihood of abatement, unless the Turkish Government take effective measures to remedy the evil.

The Mussulman mistrusts his Armenian neighbour, and shows less disposition to deal with him than formerly. The latter, on the other hand, knows the weakness of his co-religionists in point of numbers, and feels a certain amount of anxiety as to his safety from possible fanatical outbreaks, and goes in fear of being arrested at any moment on a charge of complicity in doings with which he cannot help feeling a certain amount of sympathy, though not necessarily disposed to approve or aid them.

The conduct of officials does not, unfortunately, always tend to reconcile the two discordant elements, especially in places distant from the central authorities, and thus the good results, which the Imperial amnesty of last summer was intended to bring about, have been visible in but very few places.

A case in point is furnished by the Kaïmakam of Istanos, a small town in this sandjak, containing a large community of Protestant and Gregorian Armenians. That functionary chooses to imagine that there exist designers of plots against his life and against the Government, and he never moves out without a strong escort. He treats Armenians as enemies of his country, and shows a decided aversion to them, though he cannot be said to oppress them. About six weeks ago he arrested a "colporteur" of the American Bible Society on suspicion of distributing seditious literature. He confiscated all the man's books, principally versions of the Old and New Testaments in English, Greek, and Armenian, and sent him as a prisoner to Angora, where the trumpery nature of the charge was at once admitted, and the man duly released.

This anti-Christian disposition of his, which has been shown in more instances than those above related, induced the then Governor-General of Angora to decide upon transferring him to a purely Mussulman locality; but it is doubtful whether this wise intention will be carried out by his successor.

Another sign of the times is evidenced by the steadily decreasing number of Armenians in Government posts, and though noticeable in other parts of the Empire, is given more importance here just at present. It is due not so much to dismissals or forced resignations as to preference being given to Mussulman candidates.

One of the latest sources of discontent among Armenian subjects of the Sultan is the preventive measure taken by the Government, about a month ago, in prohibiting the circulation of retail tradesmen in the outlying villages. The official reason assigned for this step, so detrimental to the petty trade of the country, and which only affects, as far as I know, the two Vilayets of Angora and Sivas, is that, complaints having been made by some Mussulman villagers that peddlers visiting their villages carried on improper dealings with the Turkish women, fears were entertained lest there should be any quarrel between the villagers and vendors, and that the measure was considered necessary, at least for the time being.

I have, however, reason to believe that the real motive is to prevent, as much as possible, the moving about from village to village of men who circulate news which is not always favourable to the Government, and whom the authorities suspect capable of becoming disseminators of seditious ideas.

Matters, in general, were in the state I have described when the first case which attracted the attention of the authorities occurred, and roused their suspicions. It was the cold-blooded murder of two men, one a Greek and the other a Catholic Armenian, by a band of six Armenians, at Ak-dagh Maden (Yuzgat Sandjak), about the middle of November, and the subsequent rescue of the murderers, while on their way to prison, by a band of fifteen Armenians. They were all recaptured and lodged in prison, as reported in my despatch of the 23rd November.

The next case of which news reached me was the attack by supposed Armenians, disguised as Georgians, on the Mudir of Devellu (Everek), who was robbed of all his money and effects when travelling in the direction of Kir-Cheir. These robbers have not been traced.

Then followed the cutting of the telegraph wires in several places in the vicinity of Yuzgat towards the end of November, as mentioned in my Report of the 2nd December.

The measure above alluded to as affecting the peddlers, and the harsh manner in which the search for the perpetrators of the destruction of the telegraph wires was carried out in the villages near the town, raised a good deal of indignation among the Armenians of Yuzgat.

At this juncture a Mussulman functionary of the Tribunal of Sungurlu (Yuzgat Sandjak) was waylaid and robbed on the road between that place and Yuzgat by a band of brigands, his house, in his absence, having been ransacked, and his harem grossly insulted by the same men.

The supposed connection of these incidents with the troubles that broke out at Yuzgat on the 12th instant, as well as an account of the latter, have been submitted in my despatches of the 14th and 16th instant, and all that has reached me since confirms my belief that the Armenians acted through fright and foolishness, though possibly the hand of agitators might also be traced.

In addition to the foregoing circumstances, I learn that several young Armenians of respectable families have recently been disappearing from their homes armed and mounted. One case in particular I have been able to verify. It is that of a certain Kiraghoz, the son of Hadji Artin, a rich Armenian Notable of Denek-Maden. About a fortnight ago he robbed his father of a large sum of money and a valuable horse, and, with five or six companions, left the place after openly vowing vengeance against the Turks for wrongs suffered at their hands.

This young fellow who, it appears, is of a turbulent character, was one of the prisoners accused of having posted seditious placards at Denek-Maden. He was released towards the beginning of November, with four others similarly placed, as mentioned in my despatch of the 6th November.

On the 10th instant some mail-bags, said to be those from Bagdad, arrived at Kalédjik, eight hours' distance from Angora, without postman or guard; the mail-bags, apparently untouched, were found by a villager lying on the road.

On the 12th instant, at a spot some ten hours away from Angora, a band of six men on horseback robbed several villages and a "coldji" of the Public Debt Administration, of all the money they had on their persons, as well as the arms and the horse of the "coldji."

The victims could not state whether the robbers were Armenians or not, as they had their heads and faces well covered up. One of them had a rifle, and, owing to the proximity of Denek-Maden, these last two acts are laid to the door of Kiraghoz and his band.

The fact that the Armenians of this vilayet have not hitherto had the reputation of possessing the qualities necessary for the hazardous calling of a highway robber, who, moreover, chooses the summer months for his exploits, and that the victims of the latest cases of brigandage have been Mussulman officials or villagers, leads one to suppose that their object is rather to attract attention to the alleged grievances of the Christian population of Asia Minor than mere robbery.

How far they are encouraged by outside influences it is difficult to prove, but there is a strong suspicion that professional agitators have not been idle.

By the Turkish Government the gravity of the situation is perhaps exaggerated. The Proctor-General of Angora, who was sent to Yuzgat immediately after the occurrences of the 12th instant, has made several arrests. The local police force has been greatly strengthened, and precautions generally have been taken to prevent a recurrence of the troubles, the dispatch of regular troops being also talked of.

The Governors of Angora and Yuzgat have been removed, and replaced by functionaries who will probably exercise a more severe rule than that of their predecessors.

In the meantime, a Special Commission of Inquiry, sent from Constantinople, is investigating the causes that led to the Yuzgat troubles. All these steps I have already had the honour to communicate in previous despatches, and I hope to have an opportunity, in due course, of learning the results of the inquiry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 3.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 9, 1894.)

(No. 612.)
Constantinople, December 30, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Trebizond respecting the affairs of Sivas and the capture of a certain Shevonian, a reported Russian agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Acting Consul Fitzmaurice to Sir Clare Ford.

Trebizond, December 11, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith inclosed extracts from a communication received by me from Dr. Jewett, United States' Consul at Sivas, in which he reports the capture of a certain Shevonian, whose name he had previously erroneously given as Shemavonian, and refers to certain rumours as to Shevonian's origin and a would-be letter of recommendation, found in his possession, from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to British Consuls.

Even the rumoured existence of such a document would seem to point to the presence of a desire, in certain quarters, to endeavour to connect recent Armenian disturbances in Sivas with British instigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Dr. Jewett to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sivas, November 25, 1893.

(Extract.)

SHEVONIAN, the Russian instigator and leader of sedition, was caught at Amassia about a fortnight ago. I wrote Consul Longworth that he was captured some time ago, but I learned later that it was Levonian, another Russian, who was caught, and I corrected that statement. There is ground for supposing that he is to be sent to Russia, if he has not been already. It is said that he belongs to a good Russian family, that Shevonian is not his real name, that the Russian General Lazareff is his godfather, and that he carried a letter of recommendation to British Consuls from Lord Rosebery.

No. 4.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 9, 1894.)

(No. 613.)
Constantinople, December 30, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that Miguerditch, the exiled Bishop of Adana, has been summoned from Angora to Constantinople on account of his suspected complicity in recent Armenian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Angora, December 16, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Mgr. Miguerditch Vehabedian, Gregorian Bishop of Adana (Cilicia), who has been resident here, in a sort of exile,

for the last eighteen months, has been summoned to Constantinople by his Patriarch, and leaves on the 18th instant.

The reasons for his having been compelled by the Government to retire from his diocese are probably known at Her Majesty's Embassy. As far as I have been able to gather here, he was suspected of having shown strong sympathy with the recent revolutionary movement, but whether proofs were forthcoming as to any active encouragement on his part I do not know.

He is, certainly, a liberal-minded Prelate, and an eloquent preacher.

Until recently he was allowed to preach occasionally in the church here, and he attracted considerable congregations; but a few days ago I learnt that owing to suspicions having been raised, I believe wrongly, as to his having been in communication with some of the political prisoners liberated soon after my arrival here, it was decided to remove him to a place where there were few or no Armenians, and Naly-Han, in this sandjak, was pointed out to him as his new residence. But in the meantime he has received instructions from his Patriarch to go to Constantinople, and has obtained the assent of the Governor-General to do so.

He appears to have reasons to be somewhat doubtful and anxious as to his ultimate fate, and I have thought it my duty to communicate the matter to you, in case you should see fit to take an interest in his future destiny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 5.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8A.)
Foreign Office, January 10, 1894.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador thanked me to-day for the efforts he supposed me to have made in allaying the Armenian agitation.

His Excellency observed that of late the Anglo-Armenians, both in association and press, had been exceedingly reticent, a circumstance which he attributed to the exercise of my influence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 6.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
Foreign Office, January 13, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 599 of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the appointment of Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha, of Mardin, to be Mutessarif of the Guendj Sandjak in the vilayet of Bitlis.

I approve of your proposal to take an opportunity of calling the attention of the Turkish Government to this official's antecedents. You should remind them that the complaints of his severity, cruelty, and want of tact led to his removal from Bayazid in 1881.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 7.

Anglo-Armenian Association to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 18.)

3, *Plowden Buildings, London, January* 17, 1894.

My Lord,

WE have the honour to transmit to you herewith a Resolution unanimously passed to-day at the annual meeting of this Association:—

Resolved,—That this annual meeting of the Anglo-Armenian Association expresses its deep grief and indignation at the systematic persecution and cruel atrocities to which the Armenians are subjected at the hands of official and non-official Turks, Kurds, and others, condemns the retrograde policy of the Sublime Porte in regard to the ancient rights and immunities of the Church of Armenia, and its neglect

to introduce the reforms and ameliorations which it has pledged itself by the Berlin Treaty to realize without further delay, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take a more decided attitude upon the Armenian question.

It was ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

(Signed) F. S. STEVENSON, *President.*
G. HAGOPIAN, *Vice-President.*
M. J. PAUL, *Treasurer.*
EDWARD ATKIN, *Secretary.*

No. 8.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 9, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 343 of the 31st December last, I have the honour to state that I have called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the lengthy imprisonment without trial of certain Armenians at Erzinghian, and I left with his Highness a *pro-memorid* on the case.

The Grand Vizier promised to make inquiries into the matter, and took note of the statements which were handed in to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 9.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 9, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 611 of the 30th December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the recent disturbances in Yuzgat.

According to this version, the trouble can be traced to the violation of Armenian women by the Turkish police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, December 29, 1893.*

WITH reference to my previous despatches on the subject of the recent troubles at Yuzgat, I have the honour to inform you that I have been assured by the Governor-General of Angora that there has been no further agitation in that town, that the Armenians had reopened their shops, which have remained closed for several days, and that the Special Commission was pursuing its inquiry into the cause of the disturbances.

The prohibition of the circulation of peddlers, referred to in my despatch of the 22nd instant, has also been rescinded on his Excellency's recommendation.

The above information is confirmed from private Armenian sources, and, in the meanwhile, I have been endeavouring to obtain reliable details as to the events that led to the Yuzgat disturbances. Pending an official version of the affair, which has not yet been forthcoming, I beg leave to submit the results of my inquiries on all sides, which substantially corroborate the information already communicated to you, and which show that those events had no connection with any "revolutionary" movement, as was at first suggested in some quarters.

In searching for the individuals who had cut the telegraph wires near Yuzgat about the 1st instant, the police visited several villages in the neighbourhood of that town. One day during the first week of this month they roughly treated the villagers of Kara-tehair, sixteen hours distant from Yuzgat, and violated two women and one

girl. In the evening of the same day they rejoined the Chief of Police in a neighbouring village, taking with them two girls, who were kept there all night and subjected to the violence of the police, some say of the Chief himself.

A day or two afterwards the pursuit was continued, and, arriving at Moles-Keui, they seized the priest of that village, and, binding his hands, dragged him along for several days through ten or eleven other villages in the hopes of scaring the people into denouncing the perpetrators of the damage done to the telegraph lines.

On the 9th of this month the outraged women and some male relations arrived at Yuzgat to lay their case before their priests. The latter, having several ceremonies to perform on the 10th and 11th, put off the matter till the 12th, on which day, at about 9 A.M., they assembled the members of the Church Committee by ringing the church bell. As the priest's and women's stories had got spread about amongst the Armenians and a certain amount of anxiety had been prevailing, the summons attracted the attention of the whole community, and numbers of Armenians closed their shops and went to the church, a great many more out of curiosity than with the intention of getting up a demonstration. The Governor, being informed of what was going on, sent the General of Brigade, Osman Pasha, to the spot, and went himself to the public places frequented by Mussulmans, and urged them not to be alarmed and to remain quiet. He then proceeded to the church, followed by a small Mussulman crowd. In the meantime the General had arrived at the church, where he found the principal members of the Armenian community in the Committee-room attached to the church drawing up a Petition to the Governor on behalf of the victims of the Chief of Police and his men.

He urged them not to make a demonstration, and promised to see that their grievances were properly listened to. The Governor then appearing on the scene, called upon the crowd outside to disperse, and engaged himself to punish the men complained against. The commotion caused among the Mussulmans by the Christian assemblage roused greater fear among the Armenians, and they would not obey the orders of the Governor to disperse, thereupon a Turkish soldier—possibly with the intention of merely frightening them into obedience—fired off his gun, hitting an Armenian in the leg. Thinking this was the commencement of a general attack on them, the Armenians fired back and wounded about ten Turks, of whom three have since died. One Armenian was killed, but only two or three were wounded. The Turks withdrew soon afterwards, but the Armenians remained for some time at the church, and for several days did not leave their houses or open their shops, as they feared Turkish reprisals.

On all sides the conduct of the General, Osman Pasha, whose action prevented reprisals on the part of the Turks, is highly praised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 10, 1894.*

AN Armenian, imprisoned at Baibourt, sent in October last a Petition to this Embassy stating that he had been arrested on a false charge of sedition, which had been trumped up against him by a personal enemy, one of his compatriots. This Petition was forwarded to Mr. Consul Graves for a report, and I have the honour to transmit a copy of the despatch which that gentleman wrote in reply. As the case seemed to be a hard one, I caused a Memorandum on it to be handed to the Grand Vizier, who has promised to make an inquiry into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 12, 1893.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 10th November, 1893, I have the honour to report as follows on the case of the Armenian, Mikail Sanossian, son of Markar, who is imprisoned at Baibourt on a political charge.

This man is a village schoolmaster at Geleverek, in the Caza of Baibourt, where he also has a small farm. Being possessed of a certain amount of education, he has sometimes represented his friends and neighbours in litigation before the local Court of Justice, and so incurred the animosity of the opposite parties. My information confirms the statement contained in his Petition to your Excellency, which I have the honour to return herewith, namely, that he had been engaged in litigation with a certain Atanas as to the ownership of a field. Atanas, who is at Constantinople, denounced him to Kadim Bey, of the police, as a conspirator and member of a revolutionary Society, and orders were sent to the Vali of Erzeroum to have him arrested and his house searched. This was done early last July, and the only documents found in his possession which were in any way compromising were (1) a copy of an Armenian newspaper printed in 1874 in the monastery of Ermast, containing some Armenian national songs; and (2) a copy of a newspaper, "Arsakank," printed at Tiflis in 1884, containing some Armenian historical records. On the ground of the possession of these papers, I understand that the Procureur-Général bases a charge of sedition, and asks for the infliction of a sentence of five years' imprisonment, but the man has not yet been tried, and remains in prison at Baibourt, where he has undergone several interrogatories without any further evidence of his guilt being elicited. I am told on good authority that he is probably quite innocent of any political offence, or of anything worse than, perhaps, meddlesome interference in other people's affairs as an amateur lawyer, and the imprudence of treasuring up old Armenian newspapers.

This may be taken as a typical case of a kind which is only too common at present in this country. An accusation, brought for palpably interested motives by some Armenian informer, is readily taken up by the Judicial authorities. Old newspapers, song-books, or other valueless documents are produced as evidence of sedition; the defence is either not listened to, or is wilfully neglected by time-serving counsel, and unless some powerful influence can be brought to bear upon the Court, a sentence of several years' imprisonment or exile is the usual result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 14.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Van, through Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the searching of Armenian houses, and arrest of a priest at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Van, December 12, 1893.

Sir,

THREE days ago more domiciliary visits were paid by the police, accompanied by the "Murakhas Vekil," to the houses of the Armenians, Terlemezian Sahag and Gabriel, Tonaghian Ohannes, Jedakhian Nazaret, and the priest Der Gomidas. The latter was arrested after morning service on Sunday, but I am not aware that any find of importance was made; it is said that prohibited songs and suspicious papers were found in the possession of the priest, who has for years past been under suspicion of the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, inclosing a copy of the Petition sent by the Armenians of Yuzgat to the Sultan.

I have not alluded to the incident at Yuzgat at the Sublime Porte, as it would be premature to do so till the Commission of Inquiry has made its Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Angora, January 2, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to send you herewith, for your information, copy with translation of a Petition addressed on the 13th ultimo to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by the Armenians of Yuzgat, complaining against the Government officials and police of Yuzgat, whose conduct they hold responsible for the recent troubles there.

That document, together with identical Petitions addressed to the Patriarch and to the Protestant "Vekyl" at Constantinople, were brought to me three days ago, with a request that I should forward them to their destinations, as the senders were afraid they would not be delivered if posted by them. I, however, declined to accept the charge, but asked to be simply furnished with a copy.

Though written on the day following the recent troubles at Yuzgat, the contents are not of an exaggerated nature, and in the main agree with the information I have already sent you.

At the time the Petition was composed, the prohibitory measure affecting peddlers referred to had not been revoked, and the Special Commission of Inquiry had not arrived.

The tortured prisoners alluded to are some twenty or thirty men from two villages to which the murderers, referred to in my despatch of the 23rd November, are supposed to have belonged, and I have been told that the members of the Special Commission visited the prisons, and must have seen the marks of the alleged acts of violence, which, if one is to believe the narratives related by persons from Yuzgat, have been unnecessarily cruel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

[*Petition of Armenians of Yuzgat to the Sultan and others, December 13, 1893.*]

(Translation.)

[This is the exact copy of the Petition drawn up by the Armenian (Gregorian) and Protestant communities of Yuzgat, in order to be presented to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, copies of which have been addressed to the Vali of Angora, the Armenian Patriarch, and the representative of the Protestant community.]

WHILE in search of some malefactors, the Yuzgat Binbashi (Colonel of Gendarmerie), his Youzbashis (Captains), the Régie Kouldjis (Guards), and the zaptiehs (policemen), have, contrary to law and their duties, violated the honour and pillaged the goods of the peaceful inhabitants of the villages through which they passed.

Also in the village of Bouroun-Kishla, in the presence of the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor), Haneli Bey and others, the aforesaid Binbashi, Toursoun Bey, addressing the whole population of the said village, used the following terror-inspiring and inciting language:—

"The Government does not know (that) this nation (Armenian) is composed of a low and base set of beings; those of them that are between 7 and 70 years of age ought to be slaughtered and their priests burned in petroleum."

The Mussulman population encouraged and incited by such terror-inspiring language proceed to violation of women and to perpetration of such-like deeds, while on the other hand the local authorities, acting contrary to law and justice, have forbidden travelling tradesmen to go about the villages, in a manner as to totally destroy their means of livelihood and to render impossible the collection of their outstanding debts, and having sent out orders to the villagers to this effect, have, in a way, encouraged and incited the Mussulman population to beat and wound and molest such of those poor Christian tradesmen who might be seen going about the villages for the purpose of collecting the sums owing to them.

At the same time the law of the Empire is rendered inefficient and a dead letter, and the rights of the whole population are in every possible way being trodden down owing to the system of bribes prevalent amongst the Government officials and the local authorities.

The latter, for their own private interests, are poisoning the minds of the Mussulman population and are thereby causing enmity and discord between the Mussulmans and the Christians, and if there be any who do not approve of their deeds or do not help in the attainment of their ends, these they frighten and terrorize by means of tortures and false accusations.

All this having settled and been impressed in the hearts and minds of the Mussulman population, the Christians are at times becoming the victims of ill-treatment on the part of these too, and are harassed and injured.

The prisoners at the Yuzgat prisons are suffering, contrary to law, unbearable pains and tortures.

At the villages of Kara-Yakop and Kara-tchair, fourteen girls were violated, the "Commandant" Pasha (Chief of Gendarmerie) being present.

When these unfortunate girls came to Yuzgat and told their story, with tears of blood running down from their eyes and with bitter cries, the Christian population assembled in the church-house and were preparing unanimously a Petition with regard to these lamentable and terrorizing acts. Thereupon his Excellency the Liwa Pasha (General of Brigade) having come on the spot with his escort in order to protect the Christians, the officers and men of the mounted and foot police began firing, and over 1,500 armed Mussulmans rushed out from the vicinity of the church and from other quarters.

At the same time heart-rending cries emanated from other parts of the town and were heard by those in the church, and filled their hearts with terror; as a result of the shots exchanged between the parties some persons were wounded and killed, both among the Mussulmans and the Christians.

The Christians have now closed their churches, their schools, and their shops, and have returned to their homes, and are waiting for the strict administration of the law and the restoration of confidence.

We, one and all, have no confidence in the Government or the Prison authorities or the Mussulman population, and, peace being entirely disturbed, we unanimously petition your Majesty, the fountain of mercy, for the administration of law and justice.

It is for your Majesty to order.

1st (13th) December, 1309 (1893).

We hereby confirm that the present Petition is in perfect conformity to the original, which is being kept, and which carries over 1,000 signatures.

(Seal of the Church Committee of Armenians of Yuzgat.)
(Seal of the Lay Committee of Armenians of Yuzgat.)
(Seal of the Committee of Protestant Armenians.)

December 3 (15), 1309 (1893).

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.,

(No. 16.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 11, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, through Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, respecting the capture and death of certain brigands in the Palu district of that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Diarbekir, November* 28, 1893.

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform you, as stated in my last private letter, that two of the band of brigands which have lately been holding the inhabitants, both Moslem and Christian, of the Kharput and Palu districts in terror, were really killed, and another two wounded, the latter being now in Palu, in the hands of the authorities.

These brigands have been carrying on their lawless pursuit for the last three or four years, under the protection, as I am told, of the influential Beys of Tchar sandjak. At first, they were simply practising highway robbery, but finding they could go on with impunity, they began to levy black-mail upon the villages, and demand certain sums of money from individuals, threatening their lives in case of refusal, and thus they murdered in cold blood several persons within the last year; one of the wounded confessed that he himself alone killed not less than eight men. Lately they have been capturing and carrying off several men who were released only on payment of certain sums of money as ransom.

It appears that the Governor-General of Diarbekir, his Excellency Suppi Pasha, ordered the Kaïmakam of Palu that he, with sufficient force, should pursue and capture the said brigands either dead or alive. A certain Khalil, Agha of the Nadjaran village, knowing the place of their concealment, led the force there, who attacked, and the result was as stated above. The other members of the band are still at large, but it is hoped that sooner or later they will meet the fate of their companions.

I hardly need state that this lesson will have the much desired effect upon the like characters, and secure temporary respite to the people already sorely troubled with poverty and threatening of dearth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 11, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting an attack by Kurds on the Circassian village of Simo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Consul Graves to Sir Clare Ford.

Erzeroum, December 14, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that information has just reached me of a serious conflict which occurred about ten days ago between Kurds and Circassians at the Circassian village of Simo, in the Khinis Caza.

It appears that a number of Armenians of the village of Lapbudagh, in Khinis, who lately emigrated to Russian territory, made a bargain with some of the Circassians of Simo to escort them through the dangerous district of Alashgerd, as far as the Russian frontier. On the way they were attacked by Kurds of the Sipkanli tribe, but the Circassians, true to their engagement, drove off the Kurds with the loss of two or three men killed, and safely conducted their convoy to the frontier. In revenge the Sipkanli have now made an attack in force upon Simo, and some severe fighting has taken place, twenty men having, it is said, been killed, chiefly on the side of the Kurds, and the issue being still doubtful when the bearer of the news, a Circassian, left Simo for Erzeroum, for the purpose of communicating with the Mushir Zekki Pasha at Erzinghian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 18.)

Constantinople, January 11, 1894.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 308 of the 29th November, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, reporting that the Armenian Bishop of Arabkir is not imprisoned, but merely living in banishment at Jerusalem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Consul Dickson to Sir A. Nicolson.

Jerusalem, December 27, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th instant informing me that a Petition having been made to Lord Rosebery by the Anglo-Armenian Association asking for the intervention of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of Mgr. Yesnik, Armenian Bishop of Arabkir, who is stated to be in prison in this city, you are requested by his Lordship to ascertain whether the circumstances of the Bishop's imprisonment are such as would justify a representation being made to the Porte in his favour, and you accordingly instruct me to furnish you with a report on the subject as soon as possible.

In reply, I have the honour to state that Mgr. Yesnik arrived in Jerusalem about fourteen months ago from Constantinople, where, it is reported, he had been undergoing a term of two months' imprisonment. The Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople procured his release on condition that he should be banished to this city for an unlimited period, and since his arrival here he has been residing in the Armenian Patriarchate, but appears to be entirely destitute of private means. He is, however, treated exactly as the other inmates of the convent, and is allowed to go about the city as the other Armenian priests, the only restraint on his liberty being that he cannot quit the country without permission.

With the exception, therefore, of the above restriction, he cannot be said to be undergoing any particular hardship or severe treatment at the hands of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 21.)

Constantinople, January 12, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 342 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, transmitting an extract from a letter addressed to him by Dr. Jewett, of Sivas, on Armenian affairs.

I have sent a warning to the Consular officers at Trebizond, Smyrna, and Erzeroum as to the two individuals mentioned in your Lordship's despatch, to one of whom allusion is made in Dr. Jewett's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, December 23, 1893.

Sir,

THE following is the contents of a letter from Dr. Jewett addressed to Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated Sivas, the 2nd December, 1893:—

"I have learned some interesting facts in regard to the so-called Slavonian. After his capture at Amassia about three weeks ago, he was brought here. Among his things was found a diary or note-book, which contained the addresses of numerous persons in London and other places in England. The names were poorly written, and some of them had Russian letters affixed to the name, apparently private notes of some sort. In the book were two of Mr. C. Fitzgerald's calling cards. On one of the cards was written, 'Introducing Dieran Rupenian to Mr. Bleeb, British Consul at Smyrna,' and on the other, 'Introducing Dieran Rupenian to Mr. H. Z. Longworth, British Consul at Trebizond.' I may not have the exact wording, but the substance is correct and authentic. The Vali thinks the cards throw some doubt upon the identity of the prisoners.

"Professor Thoumayian seems to be acting injudiciously. The Mudiourmumi says they have captured five letters that the Professor has written to friends in Marsovan. The last one was captured quite recently, and was sent under cover addressed to one of the girls in the Marsovan school for some one else. The Mudiourmumi says all the letters are of a seditious character. If that is so, the Professor is worse than injudicious; he is a rascal to implicate the college by his letters. If there is any way to make him stop I wish it might be carried out.

"Latest report is that the Alai Bey of Damascus is not coming here. A new President of the Court of Appeal has been appointed from Constantinople.

"There have been four deaths from cholera reported at Amassia this week. Have not learned full particulars."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 22.)

Constantinople, January 12, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond transmitting a copy of a letter from Dr. Jewett, of Sivas, with a translation of a placard posted by Armenians in Amassia and Tokat.

I have also the honour to transmit a copy of the Circular mentioned by Mr. Longworth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, December 31, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith extracts of a letter from Dr. Jewett, dated the 17th instant, as well as copy of one of its inclosures purporting to be a translation of a placard to Mahommedans posted up by Armenians at Tokat and Amassia about the end of last month.

The other paper, a translation of an Armenian revolutionary Circular, sent us by Dr. Jewett, is a composition of such a scurrilous nature that I would beg to transmit it to you privately, as I am this day doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Dr. Jewett to Acting Consul Fitzmaurice.

Sivas, December 17, 1893.

(Extracts.)

ABOUT twenty days ago a large number of revolutionary placards were posted at Tokat and Amassia, and revolutionary Circulars were distributed among the Armenians.

I send you authentic translations of both. I have been obliged to do the work hurriedly, and have not put it into very good English, but you may be better able to judge what the documents are worth keeping them pretty near the originals They are interesting as showing the mind of the leaders and their attitude towards the American missionaries. Both papers were probably written originally by Shimavon, as copies in Armenian were found in his possession when he was brought here. Four or six Armenians of Tokat were arrested and brought here in connection with this affair.

It is said the Vali closeted himself with them for some time, and then gave them the liberty of the city. Some say they proved their innocence, and others say they gave the Society away, and as a reward the Vali gave them their freedom. I have been looking for some such placard demonstration from Halil Bey, but I do not know as he had any hand in this affair.

As a possible scheme, I would make the suggestion that, if the British Government wished to get full information of the trial of Armenian political [?], they send a lawyer to defend Dr. Karekin, letting it be understood that the doctor hires him. The lawyer could attend the trial, sift the evidence, get at the facts, and make a more valuable Report than any one else could. . . . . .

December 19, 1893.—I have not solved the problem in regard to the arrest of Shimavon. He, or some one supposed to be he, has been reported captured on two different occasions during the last four to six weeks. I do not think he was brought here. His papers, or the papers of one of these fellows, were sent here, and I have given you a straight account of cards of introduction, copies of placards and Circulars.

It is reported (pretty straight) that about ten days ago Turks attempted to carry off, for purposes of marriage, an Armenian girl at Yuzgat. A severe fight followed, in which one Turk was killed, seventeen wounded, and seven Armenians were wounded. The fight occurred near the Government House, and some of those wounded were Turkish officials.

The Marif Mudiri, who left here some days ago for Bitlis, has always been friendly to the missionaries. He was an uneducated and unprogressive man of little energy. . . . . .

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Placard.

(Translation.)

ANY ONE who will not read this Notice from beginning to end, who will not admit the truth of it, and who will not make it known to his friends and neighbours; or any one who will take it to the Government House, may he deny Mahommed and curse the Koran.

Osmanlis,

The Armenian revolutionary movement has been before your eyes for many years. The entire disappearance of law, the fall of justice and right, the bribery of the officials, and the consequent bad results, have thrown the whole Armenian population of Turkey into the arms of revolution. We expected that the injustice, bribery, fall of law, &c., being upon you also, you would either help us or try to find some solution to the problem. But alas! you have been indifferent, deaf to all this, and you put yourself into deep waters of unbelief, because you do not believe in what we say, but you pay attention to the corrupt and rascally officials. You feel at enmity towards us because you think that the Armenian revolution is aimed against Mahommedanism. You make yourselves the victims of a Government formed of vile officials who kill while they pet you, and you still are faithful to such a Government!

But oh, Mahommedans! you are suffering the bad results as much or more than we. Yes, Mahommedans, the deeds of this corrupt Government are deeds fit for murderers and thieves, but none the less the Government has succeeded in making you oppose the Armenians in order that the two neighbours, Turks and Armenians, both wronged, both robbed, both suffering the evils of bad rule, shall fight against each other, and in order that the officials shall have more opportunities to rob, crush, and wrong both. Both are persecuted, and in this way the officials succeed in attaining their corrupt ends. All of us and each of us has this rotten Government in his presence, a Government that is in the lowest depths of bribery and corruption, and is rushing headlong still deeper and deeper. This takes place before our own eyes. With bribery anything can be done; without it, nothing. This is the aim of this nasty yoke. Is there any law, justice, or right left in this ruined Government? This is the reason of our movement. We are against the thieving and devouring officials not against Mahommedans or Mahommedanism.

The examples are before your eyes. How many hundreds of rascals in Constantinople, Van, Erzeroum, Alashkert, Harpout, Cesarea, Marsovan, Amassia, and other towns have been killed by the Armenian revolutionists? What were these rascals? Armenians! Armenians! and again Armenians! If our aim was against Mahommedans or Mahommedanism, as the Government tries to make you think, why should we kill the Armenians?

Consider the matter, oh, Mahommedan people, and come to your senses. Yes, our aim is not, has not been, and never will be, against Mahommedans or Mahommedanism. What religious enmity can exist between us while both have the same God? Yes, and truly, how may times, on the insinuation of the Government, you Mahommedans were expecting that the Armenians would rise up against you in the mosques on the Bairam. Have you ever heard or seen that such a step of brother-slaughter has taken place?

If there was ever any enmity between Christianity and Mahommedanism, that was several hundred years ago. Thousands and millions of Mahommedans are out o Turkey under Christian Governments, and who can say that they are not enjoying religious liberty? In the large cities of Christian countries we see magnificent mosques, and the Mahommedans go through their religious ceremonies unmolested. In London a Christian adopted Mahommedanism, but the English Government did

not think even of making any remarks; and the inauguration of the mosque at the "World's Fair" was made with great ecremony, as was stated in the Turkish newspapers of Constantinople.

The Government, in order to stir up enmity against us, say that we want to form a Government of our own. It is a lie. Is it not true, Mahommedans, that, although you are under a Mahommedan Government, you are robbed? If it is so, you have the example before you. Are we foolish enough to have the idea of national independence? No, no.

Crushed, oppressed, robbed, plundered, Mahommedan neighbours, before being Christians we are men. Being men both of us, we wish not to be robbed in daylight of our most holy rights. We wish not to be robbed of our daily bread, won by honest toil.

Osmanlis, your country is in danger. This weak Government is leading you to the chaos of destruction. At any rate, what is left worthy of the name of Government.

Osmanlis, this way of living, and this condition of affairs, is foolishness. It is a shame to all the inhabitants to still support this scandalous Government.

It is necessary to make an end to this inhuman condition. Without fail we must overturn this rotten, ruined Government from its foundations. We can reach our aim if we all unite against this common foe, taking for our motto, "Justice, Law, and Right," the Mosque for Mahommedans and the Church for Christians.

This is the aim of our revolutionary movement, and if you, Osmanlis, care for your future, you must take the same course.

(The Armenian Revolutionists.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 17.

Circular.

Men of Marsovan:

BEHOLD the return of the days of Hosref Pasha's absolute monarchy, only with this difference, to-day robber Bekir Pasha reigns.

This is not the first time this city has been given up to such an agonizing condition; but to-day's agony will not be its last. That is simply and unchangeably a revolutionary course until the red day when, by the coming of the last home thrust, we are shaken free from this musty old skeleton, this infamous yoke shaken from the neck of the Armenians and of all the subjects of Turkey, oppressed without distinction, and our great cause, our holy work, shall thrill with innumerable vibrations.

The A B C of revolution is this, and only he becomes discouraged to whom this alphabet is unknown, only he pays the penalty, who, not knowing this alphabet, passes over to the ranks of the enemy.

The future is ours. Of that there is no doubt. By imprisoning Paul, exiling Peter, hanging Giragas, the enemy does not stop revolution, for the inciters of revolution are not the imprisoned Paul, the exiled Peter, and the hung Giragas. The enemy himself is the inciter to revolution by his fathomless corruption, lawlessness, and injustice. Behold, for example, the refugees were struck and arrested. In the prison there is no more room left. Is it likely that the dissatisfaction of the public will cease? Will that much effort uproot bribery? Will lawlessness take a back seat and taxes be lightened? No, no, a thousand times no!

Naturally, where public discontent exists and will exist, there is created continual revolution and martyrs. Can we believe that the Levons and Shimavons are the ones who throw the mantle of revolution over the land? Never, never. Economic and political debauchery is what drives the people into the lap of revolution. Who would give ear to Levon if there was reformation in the land? There is no law. Judgment and common government have become a violent pestilence. Away from them, away, unless you wish to destroy your own house. The officials are thieves and robbers (*e.g.*, Bekir Pasha) ignorant and impotent, inaugurated for bribery and only by means of bribery. You would think their only business was to rob the people and steal the Government revenue.

Bribery, the fiercest enemy of the Turkish Government, is everything, is on everybody. Strike with your right hand, murder a man, and if in your left hand is a bribe be perfectly sure you will be set at liberty; but if you are poor the Pasha has come to judge you.

On the other hand, taxes are increasing, aye, increasing without the least attempt

at stewardship for the people. Under the name tithes, emlak, hezir, &c., the land is made subject to plunder. "Give, give;" there is no one to ask at what limit you can cease paying out. The land broad and fruitful, the people delivered up to extreme poverty work winter, summer, spring, and fall, and still remain hungry and thirsty. All this toil scarcely fills the throats of the thief and robber officials, and along with feeding so many vagabonds the land has gone a sacrifice to the vampire claws of the "Multiszim." The reason is that the officials being thieves swallow the revenues, and in place of being punished are allowed to override the land. You have a vineyard that brings hardly two loads of grapes, this Multiszim write "five." You have not the privilege of protesting, for the theiving Kaïmakam has a share in the booty. You have a vineyard that pays "emlak" tax, then from the grapes and this vineyard "hezir" tax, then from the grapes you make wine, and pay customs dues for the wine, custom from the "jibre;" you sell wine, again custom; you sell brandy, again custom. And to all this the corrupt Government gives the name of taxes. Who is there who does not know that this is not tax but absolute and unbridled plunder by daylight? Only the contents of the privy remains untaxed.

Aha, only a few words on the political and economic condition that creates the spirit of revolution in the oppressed lower classes, and with this they give up Levon to be hung.

What is our object? Annihilation, said the Turkish Government, lawless and unjust. Will they voluntarily destroy themselves, those sort of things? Never. So then either the Government must go or the common people. But who or what is a Government without the people? Nothing. But the common people without Government? Everybody and everything. Aya! to him who understands the X Y Z of revolution one, to him who understands not the X Y Z of revolution one thousand . . . .

Bekir Pasha, who ten years ago on the mountains was, for 10 paras, picking the specks from a robbed man's skin, lo! to-day in Marsovan sells divinity by means of khimai. Our omniscient and omnipotent Kaïmakam, who in the course of months by his omniscience and omnipotence was not able to head off what was going on under his very nose, until those same Armenians came to his help. That Bekir Pasha thief, who, like a mouse, sticks his nose into every mouse hole of the city, hunting revolutionists, to fill his miserable pocket, forgets that it is the frightful Government which arouses the spirit of revolution, and that to end and for ever annihilate such a thief Government is why this revolution arises. Aya! he forgets this, and omits it in his calculations. This is a most well known truth, and it is this forgetfulness that will punish the iniquitous lawless yoke.

Armenian people, you in many things deem us at fault. Aya! you are right in that, and we come now publicly to confess our mistakes. The biggest of these mistakes is looking on our Aghas with complacency.

It is true that his followers should have fallen with Krimlolou. But "there is no will without its good;" and in real life the truth of this popular proverb was never more pat than to-day.

If blinded by transient success, we showed our colours before these Aghas too soon; we pitied them, the haters of our nation, the worst enemies of the people's holy cause, for they were still more blinded by the late blood-stained occurrence, which brought to us only the mere semblance of relaxing our efforts, and, at the same time, tore apart their mask. Moaning, beseeching, supplicating, will no longer obliterate the course we pursue. The experienced devils have again added to their experience. Our words are plain, or rather our future course is plain; forgetting for the moment the universal enemy, the bad Government, we come to invite the posting of placards; up to the loss of the last hair, spare nobody; for we have decided not to spare one of them longer. We wish to spare Armenian blood, common blood, but these one para pieces gave us no rest so long as they did not permit us to centre our attention upon this dirty Government.

Eye to eye, limb to limb. The career is open before us. Let the Aghas continue their present course; we go on with our spade and pickaxe, and we shall see who will obtain the prize.

But we will not make the Aghas unquiet. No, no; we will make them very quiet, eternally quiet. This is our decision, from our heart of hearts, first and foremost to murder (or torment) these Armenian Aghas; not for one day or one year, but at once, continually, and for ever.

Coming to the question of atheism and infidelity, oh, Armenians! lo, we revo-

lutionists come to advertise that we are atheist and infidel, compared with that belly-worshipping Divrikli (Bishop), defender of Christianity.

How is it possible for us not to appear atheist and infidel to the eyes of the stable-cleaners and street-sweepers of America, who come to us in palatial style, with salaries of 30 liras a-month, to sell us Christianity, while one of the principal points in our movement is to root out and annihilate inequality in religion, not only among Armenian brethren, but also among the Mahommedans?

How can we not appear atheistic and infidel in the eyes of the Divrikli, whose only God is his bloated belly?

Yea, atheist and infidel was Levon Effendi, who, leaving home, position, wealth, forgetting father, mother, sister, brother, friend, and sweetheart, came and was imprisoned here. Came willingly to participate in the universal sufferings of Armenia with his high culture, to aid in freeing Armenians from the unendurable condition, the shadow, even, of which our mister missionaries have not seen. Before this picture of sublime morality, the entire Armenian clergy, from the nation-hating Ashian down to the lowest servant in the Church, dwindles into nothingness. What is the motto of the Divrikli's life? To eat, to drink, and afterwards, bloated and puffed, to go and make betrayals. What was the reason of his fleeing, driven out, from Charshamba? It was his staining the reputation of Armenian relatives, forcing Armenian women. Not being able to fully gratify his doctrinal animal passions there, the abomination came to Marsovan. Let any one come out publicly and deny one word or letter of what we affirm. But if the Aghas go every day to kiss his dirty eyes, who cares? As for us, we do not care to approach near enough to spit on his abominable face, and so we are atheists and infidels.

Why has not Bekir robber till to-day given to be translated the book about Levon Effendi? Didn't he promise to? Just imagine a low-lived thing like him undertaking to hold his own with Levon Effendi, who enjoyed the highest culture of Europe. The very thought of it is enough to make the corpse in the grave giggle outright!

Why have finally come the gravel-scratchers from the dung-hills and privies of America to enjoy a royal life in palaces well walled, and that, too, in this impotent Turkish Government? But if they would move out just a little from those fortifications, what misery, what poverty, what oppression! But what care those old hostlers? Woe to Christianity if its Founder and Apostles had followed the example of those half-Jesuit Protestant preachers! Why don't they preach the Gospel among Mahommedans? Oh, there would be difficulties and persecution. Ha, ha! but where is the example of Christ? On a salary of 30 liras a-month, who would not be willing to preach Christianity among Christians? They preach that it is no sin to eat meat on Wednesday or Friday. But have they—the vulgar of the vulgar, and sophists of the sophists in America—have they understood and accepted the Gospel to preach it? What was the fault with those thirteen young men expelled from the college, and being expelled, putrefied the hand of the Turkish Government?

Oh, Armenians! Christ preached the Gospel, not so much by word as by example. Christ showed the essence of preaching the Gospel by, first and foremost, exemplifying in his own person what he preached. But what say our masters and misses missionaries, when you look at the grand glorious shadows they cast? "We from childhood were trained in such things." Oh, oh, it is all an impertinent lie. They in America blacked muddy shoes in the streets, and so eked out the dry bread they then gnawed on. But then they were indeed noblemen, polite in all their beggary, but now eaters of alien food. O, Armenian mothers! with the blood and sweat of your children is provided that immense income, which, under the name of "board," comes to these well-intrenched Christian Protestant Jesuits.

It was Levon Effendi who, in childhood, was "accustomed to such nice things," such superior life; but he forgot and forsook all for his great God, for his strong faith, for another land, for freedom, for true, and not the missionary or the Divrikli's brotherly equality. In front of their holy temple he breathed out his immortal spirit. Lo, here is a believer in the Gospel, such as probably Anatolia has not seen in years before.

What else remains in Christianity except Christianity for sale (and at what a fearful price) and the Divrikli's Christianity?

We confidently trust that our Marsovan mothers and sisters will annually, on the 9th September, pray for the repose of the soul of Levon Parseghean, and for the immortal memory of his two brave associates; not by calling priests to read over the graves, but by shedding in their hearts unrestrainable tears.

On the other hand, we also have confidence that the people of Marsovan will no longer permit Divrikli to longer pollute their holy temple by his abominable presence. For, oh men of Marsovan (excepting Aghas)! we repeat, the Divrikli was expelled from Charshamba for corrupting Armenian girls, women, and boys, affiliating with licentious Turkish officials, as he is doing to-day, filling prisons with your husbands, children, and brothers. Don't you well know this? Then why do you allow that nasty dog to pollute your church with his most abominable presence? To stone, to stone such a fiend. But at least he should never be permitted to go near the church, or to touch the holy utensils with his most foul hand.

Finally, oh people of Marsovan! the five-para old skull; can't there be found stones enough to crack it?

No. 18.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 593 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting on the first two days of the trial of the Armenian, Gaspar, and his four companions.

I will call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the alleged torture of Gaspar, inflicted to extract a confession of guilt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, January* 8, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th December last on the subject of the trial of the Armenian prisoner, Gaspar, and his four companions, I have the honour to report that their fresh trial commenced on the 30th December, on which day the whole sitting was taken up in the reading of the Yozgat *procès-verbal*. The next hearing took place on the 4th instant, when the perusal of the said proceedings was finished, and the prisoners were interrogated.

The *procès-verbal* bore a great similarity in general to the one concerning Professor Thoumaian and his co-prisoners, and I do not suppose you wish to have a detailed account of its contents. It will, perhaps, suffice, for the present at least, to say that the evidence was entirely circumstantial, and, in my humble opinion, not of such a nature as to procure a conviction in an English Court. The usual incriminating depositions were read out, only to be disavowed in Court by all the prisoners, who declared themselves innocent of the serious charges brought against them. The further hearing of the case was indefinitely postponed, in order to procure the attendance of several witnesses whom the prisoners, Gaspar and Séropé, stated were in a position to prove an *alibi* on their behalf.

This will retard the proceedings for several weeks.

In the meantime, I think it my duty to call your attention to the following circumstance. When called upon by the Court to explain the discrepancy between his deposition before the Examining Judge of Tchoroum, where he was arrested, and his statements in Court, Gaspar made a statement to the effect that he had been submitted to various kinds of torture at the instigation and with the knowledge of the Kaïmakam of Tchoroum, in order to force him to sign the papers.

He declared (1) that he was beaten until three strong sticks were broken over his back, and he fainted from the pain; (2) that his hair was shaved off his head, and a round hole made, into which a nut-shell, half filled with lice, was pressed down by means of a heavy stone until it stuck there by itself. He fainted several times, and each time he was restored to consciousness by means of spirits, only to have the nut-shell pressed into his head again; (3) that for a whole night he was hung up by the head and legs between two suspended chains; (4) that during another whole

night he was hung up by the neck with his feet barely touching the ground; and (5) that hot iron rings were applied to his ankles, which were severely burnt.

Being questioned as to why he had not called the attention of the Yozgat authorities to these acts of cruelty, he stated that he had done so, and that a doctor who had been sent to see him had found the marks of violence on his body, and that the scars on his ankles were still visible.

I took the opportunity this afternoon of privately calling the attention of the Governor-General to these statements, which, being present in Court, I had heard with great regret; but his Excellency did not seem inclined to attach any importance to them, and maintained that they were fabricated. He wished to assure me that such things could not happen, and that many Armenian prisoners have been known to purposely inflict injuries on their persons in order to create an ill-feeling against the authorities. I, however, ventured to disagree with him, and to take Gaspar's story for true, unless he had the matter properly sifted and proved unfounded, because, if proved untrue, it would, I said, be to the interest of the Kaimakam and his subordinates to have it cleared up, and, if correct, would necessitate some steps to prevent the recurrence of the cruelties related, as I felt sure it was not with the knowledge or wish of His Majesty the Sultan that such means should be resorted to in the administration of the law; but he did not see things in the same light.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 19.

Newspaper Articles communicated by Rustem Pasha, January 27, 1894.

Armenia and the Armenians.

(From a Correspondent.)

WE believe in revolution, and so uphold the right of the Armenians to have one whenever they choose. They, not we, are the parties to decide as to the urgency of the need and as to the fitness of the time, place, means, &c. To call them "revolutionists" is thus simply to say that they are men who regard a certain object as worthy of all risks, even that of death itself.

What, then, is the object which they seek? They seek the independence of what they call "their country," and especially its freedom from Turkish rule. To gain this they have deliberately fired on the Sultan's troops, usurped his authority by levying taxes, and set up a form of government of their own. As to the future, many desire to replace Turkey by Russia, though possibly, after even a brief experience, they might prefer King Log to King Stork. As to the means to be employed, there are differences among them. Some wish the direct interference of Russia; others appeal to Great Britain; while yet others take the sword into their own hands. Each of these classes is again divided, but the movement has one general character, that of revolution, for it seeks an overthrow—if needful, by armed force—of an established authority.

The urgency and hopefulness of their enterprise may be apparent to Armenians, but only some outsiders share in their expectations. The object sought for is the independence of Armenia, but Armenia as a country has no existence. "Armenia" is simply a historical and not even a geographical expression. Centuries ago its territory was divided among powerful neighbours, and only an imaginative geographer could now draw its boundary-lines. How, then, can a country whose very name has for so long disappeared off the maps of the world be called back to life? What is there to call back? And what about the people? Not only is there no distinct, recognizable territory, but there is no community. There is a race, indeed, but there is no "people." The Armenians of to-day, all told, number, perhaps, some two or three millions of souls. Of these, two-thirds may be living under the Turkish flag; but they are scattered all through the Empire. In all its domains there is not to-day a village district, or, say, a piece of ground that is 10 miles square, a majority of whose popula tion is Armenian. The *Greek* Christians had a country, formed an organized community, and were the overwhelming majority of the Hellenes. The *Lebanon* Christians occupy a well-defined district, and are a decided majority of its mountain

tribes and inhabitants, but the *Armenian* Christians are a majority nowhere. Even in Van, Bitlis, Erivan, &c., the five vilayets in which they are most numerous, they are outnumbered by the Moslems by 2 to 1. To appoint a Christian Governor over such districts would be to place him over a population a majority of which is Moslem —a procedure that would lead to yet greater trouble. A movement which thus seeks to recreate a country which has been non-existent for centuries, and to regard as a "nation" a people who are a race and not a *community*, seems to be the dream of nationalist doctrinaires rather than the judgment of intelligent, practical men.

And such is the character of the present Armenian movement. To represent the conduct of the Turkish Government as a persecution of Christians as such is perfectly absurd, else there had been similar persecutions in other parts of the Empire. To speak of Turkish hatred of Armenians is equally absurd, for while Armenians exist in every part of the Empire, many of them occupying high position in the Sultan's service, yet it is only in one district that the so-called persecutions are known. The truth is, that neither the race nor the religion of the persons complaining is at the bottom of their present treatment. This is to be found in the fact that, being subjects of the Sultan, they have taken up arms for the subversion of his authority, and now, overpowered by superior force, are suffering the usual consequences of military defeat. Bystanders can only say *Væ victis*.

Another point must be borne in mind. There are among the Armenians three sections of Christians: the old Armenian Church, dating from the introduction of Christianity into the country, and hardly differing ecclesiastically from the Orthodox Greek Church of Russia; the Armenian Roman Catholics, dating from the fifteenth century, who admit the primacy of the Roman Pontiff; and the Armenian Evangelical Protestants, the result of the labours of the American missionaries. Of these parties the former is pro-Russian in leaning and connection, the Catholicos priding himself on being a Russian subject and having both his residence and the seat of his primacy within Russian territory. The two other sections, however patriotic in their sentiments, for the most part "study to be quiet and to mind their own business." The "Christians," therefore, who are being "persecuted," are almost exclusively old Armenians, while the Catholics and the Evangelical Protestants, like the teachers, Thoumaian and Kayayan, are seldom included by the Sultan among those whom he finds deserving of punishment. By the "Armenian Christians," therefore, is meant that portion of the Armenian community which has ecclesiastical and political affiliation with Russia.

All this said, let us now see what eye-witnesses of portions of the recent outbreaks have to say about them. Dr. Farnsworth, a missionary of the American Board, who has lived in Cæsarea for forty years, and has been there all this year, writes as follows in a New York newspaper:—

"Our first alarm came in the midst of the week of prayer. Never were the meetings of that week so fully attended . . . ; we were hopeful and happy; but on the morning of the 6th January placards of a seditious character were found posted in many parts of the city.

"We soon learned that on the same night they had been put up in Talas and some other towns and villages. In due time word came of just such notices being found at Marsovan, 180 miles north of Cæsarea, and in intervening cities, all having been found on the same morning. Clearly these indicated a widespread and organized conspiracy. Very soon sufficient evidence was found to justify the arrest of some Armenians. Confessions made by some of these led to the discovery of records and other documents incriminating many persons. Scores of men, both in the city and in the neighbouring villages, were thrown into prison. But all this would have made no trouble except to those individuals and their families. The real danger was from the more fanatical portion of the Moslems. The thought that the infidels were plotting against the head of their religion, as well as their Sovereign, aroused their fanaticism. We never doubted the good-will of the Government, but we had very great anxiety as to its ability to hold these dangerous elements of society in check. . . .

"The Government was very efficient and untiring, and the state of things improved for nearly four weeks. Then a young Turk was shot in one of the vineyards, presumably by one of the men hiding from the Government. The body was brought to the city and carried through streets and markets to the Government quarters, one man crying out, 'Martyr, martyr.' A very great crowd collected, and the excitement was high. . . . I am glad to say the Government proved equal to the emergency —the excitement was quelled, and the crowd dispersed. This was the 15th February. . . .

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

"Probably there was more sorrow and weeping in the large Armenian community of Cæsarea on the 28th February than there has been in any one day in the many years that I have resided there. The reason was the sending in the night, without warning, of a large number of political prisoners away in irons. Their friends were not informed where they were to go. As to their fate, there was impenetrable mystery. In a few days others were sent; but in the meantime, it became known that they were all to be further examined in Angora. The whole number sent was 163. If the 28th February was a day of deep mourning, yesterday, the 3rd April, was a day of unspeakable joy. The telegraph brought the news that, through the clemency of the Sultan, 131 of the prisoners were pardoned. This morning we have the news of the pardon of five others, leaving but twenty-seven in prison. Some of these are men of the blackest crimes. These trying times have shown us that the Government is much more efficient than we had dared to hope. These pardons are a noble proof of the clemency of the Sultan."

Dr. Farnsworth's language is most explicit. For forty years his home has been in Cæsarea. As a missionary he has gone in and out among its people, and must not only know them personally, but must be familiar with the character and habits of each member of the Christian community. His work has lain almost exclusively among the old Armenians, and his hopes of future fruits from his labours are mainly connected with them. With his knowledge of the past qualifying him to speak, and with his hopes of the future, fitted to keep him from speaking, yet writing over his own name, he speaks of a "widespread and organized conspiracy;" of the Government as being "very efficient and untiring" in its efforts to prevent an outbreak of Moslem passion; of "the clemency of the Sultan" towards many of the persons arrested, and says the Government was "more efficient than he"—a man of forty years' residence in the city—"had dared to hope," and closes with the remarkable words, "a noble proof of the clemency of the Sultan." Such an outspoken defence of the Local and also of the Central Governments would not have been made but by one whose knowledge of the facts entitled him to speak, and whose loyalty to truth compelled him to do so. Dr. Farnsworth, though a missionary, was not afraid to incur the enmity of the conspirators; they are only a handful, and the great body of the Armenian population stand aloof from joining in their rebellion. In all this letter there is not one word about persecution of Armenians as such, or of Christians as such; not one word about Turkish violation of religious liberty or freedom. Dr. Farnsworth mentions nothing but "sedition" and "conspiracy" on the one side, and good-will, efficiency, and clemency on the other.

Writing about two months ago, the same missionary says:—

"During the last two months I have been absent on tours thirty-nine days, and visited thirteen stations. I find everywhere more or less political excitement and unrest. Still, it is not one-tenth so bad as it is reported in British and American papers. In a residence of forty years I have never seen the country so absolutely free from all fear of highway robbery as it now is. . . . Gemerek has suffered severely from the political plottings of the last three or four years. Here we have a congregation of 300 or more, and more than 50 church members. Justly or unjustly, the preacher has been in prison since January, and is condemned to six years in a fortress. . . . We had very large congregations on Sunday, but felt that the virus of sedition has seriously injured, if it has not destroyed, the spirituality of this people."

Again, Dr. Farnsworth says nothing about religious persecution, but much about "sedition" and "political excitement," much about "good order" and "freedom from highway robbery," but not one word about the persecution of "Armenian Christians." The whole complaint of the letter is the political excitement and the political plotting.

The length of this article compels us to keep over till next week the portion of it referring especially to Marsovan.

In the Province of Anatolia, in Asia Minor, and just south of that Bay of Sinope, so noted during the Crimean War for the destruction of Turkish by Russian ships of war, lies the little town of Marsovan. The American missionaries, finding there a considerable Armenian population, opened a station and commenced a school, which in 1886 was transformed into Anatolia College. In this institution Messrs. Thoumain and Kayayan were teachers until February 1893. As they were both in England in September, neither of them was concerned with the events narrated in the following letter. For prudential reasons the name of the writer, who is, however, well known, is withheld. The letter has already appeared in print, but will be now in England:—

"A desperate and bloody struggle on the 20th September resulted in the wiping out of the secret insurrectionary body in the town of Marsovan. . . . These people (the Armenians) have grievances, and they have pressed them upon the attention of Europe at the Berlin Conference and otherwise. But their demand for autonomy is premature, to say the least, if it is not a geographical impossibility. They have received, on the other hand, important concessions from the Ottoman Government, and their sufferings are not greater, certainly, than those of the Mahommedans among whom they live. . . . It has been the interest of agitating parties outside of the Empire to encourage and cultivate these restless movements, and thus it came about that a young Russian Armenian Nihilist named Levon has been for months past secreted in the town of Marsovan, exerting all his powers to stir up a revolutionary movement among the young Armenians of the place. Himself an exile and outlaw from Russia, he had nothing to lose by his mad scheme but his worthless life, with which he has now paid the penalty for his folly.

"By means of Socialistic and Nihilistic documents printed in French, and by his own plausible arguments, he worked effectively on the opinions and imaginations of a certain class of callow minds, to which he secured access in secret. Gradually, as one and another of these young men came to be suspected by the Government of disloyal sentiments and doings, they found it necessary to join their leader in his mysterious retirement. There had long existed a Secret National Society, with political aims and revolutionary sentiments, and with branches or chapters in various parts of the country. Just what relation the little band of conspirators had with this Society can, perhaps, never be fully known. By the Government officials and many others the two bodies were entirely identified, and it is probable that the desperadoes captured the other organization, and tried to run it on their own more advanced principles. At all events, they organized what they called a Government, and attempted to exercise some of the prerogatives of one. They levied money for their own necessary expenses. This they are said to have attempted to do at first by robbing the mail on the highway, and thus laying under contribution their hated enemy, the Ottoman Government; but finding this method difficult and dangerous, they fell back on the easier plan of muleting well-to-do individuals of their own race, selecting as their victims persons known to be more or less in sympathy with their movements, or such as could readily be terrorized into compliance and silence. A merchant or other citizen of means would have a letter thrust into his hands in an unfrequented street by a stranger; on opening it he would see a suggestive heading of skull and cross-bones, under which was written a peremptory order that at such a time and at such a place he should hand over the sum of 10*l.* or 50*l.*, according to his rated ability, and intimating that his life would be the forfeit of refusal or of any attempt at betrayal; and the money was uniformly paid over! Another exercise of arbitrary power was in the removal of persons who were suspected of betraying their secrets to the Government. Such persons were sometimes warned, but more frequently fell in the street without warning, pierced by the bullet of the assassin. Eight or nine of such prudential murders took place in or near Marsovan, and other individuals who were marked to be victims managed to avoid their fate. One of the American missionaries was at one time on the black list, but it was concluded that the political effect of such a blow would be unfavourable to 'the cause,' and the missionary still lives. . . . Despite the rigid Governmental restrictions on the introduction of arms into the country, these rebels managed to provide themselves with very complete outfits. . . .

"A part of the scheme of these revolutionists was to wrap their toils about Anatolia College and the American missionaries, and in some way to identify them with the movement, hoping to utilize their privileged premises as a resort and rendezvous, and to draw into their enterprise some of the pupils and graduates of the college. It is a greatly regretted fact that some of these young men, despite repeated warnings, were deceived and did fall into the trap, and on one occasion, during a vacation in the college, the Russian Nihilist was found secreted in a closet in one of the college rooms, and narrowly escaped being handed over to the authorities.

"In the meanwhile, the Turkish Government was not idle. For years there has been good ground for suspecting the existence of such secret organizations. Systematized espionage was not fruitless, and many trails, true and false, were started. Evidence of one kind and another was accumulated against various individuals, and early in the present year a concerted onslaught was made at various centres in different parts of the country. Then followed the scenes with which the public has been so familiar for months past, cruelties and mob violence at Cæsarea; the burning of the girls' school building at Marsovan; the arrest, imprisonment, and trial of the two

college professors and of a large number of other persons. Damaging testimony, said to have been adduced against certain graduates of the college at Marsovan, led to the hasty and unjust suspicion that that institution was involved in disloyal proceedings. . . There still exists an unjust and unreasonable prejudice against the college of Marsovan, which time alone and wise and consistent conduct can remove. But the indemnity for the burned building was promptly paid, and the Imperial Charter for the college is definitely promised for the 19th October.

"The struggle of the Turkish authorities with the rebels in Marsovan was long and difficult. They were fighting in the dark with hidden foes. Three hundred soldiers were detailed to help the police and gendarmes to ferret out the hidden insurrectionists. These would-be patriots were driven to desperate straits. By arguments and by threats they succeeded for awhile in gaining the apparent sympathy and adhesion of the mass of the Armenian community, whom they compelled to shelter, hide, and feed them on penalty of assassination or of being reported to the Government as treasonable. Occasionally, skirmishes took place between these outlaws and the squads of night patrol, the conflicts sometimes ending fatally, and from time to time individuals were captured. The whole city was kept for eight months in the most intense and distressing excitement. Arrests and imprisonment of suspected individuals added to the fear and distrust. Some citizens fled from the city, but multitudes were prevented from doing so by the rigid police surveillance and the refusal of the Government to issue travelling permits. Matters would doubtless have come to a much worse pass but for the wise justice and dignified firmness of the local Governor, Bekir Pasha, who, perhaps, several times, and certainly at the closing scene, prevented a widespread massacre by his firm and fearless mastery of the situation. At length the Armenian community became tired of the struggle, and it is said they finally gave away the secret gang. At all events, on the night of the 19th September the place where they were lodged was discovered by the police. A cordon of soldiers surrounded the block and began gradually drawing their lines closer and closer round the central spot. It took some ten hours to complete the capture. At the close a desperate fight occurred. Some of the besieging party fell before the fire of the rebels, but the number of victims is not known. Of the gang three were killed, and with them one young man said to be quite innocent of any complicity in their doings. The Russian Nihilist leader was so terribly wounded that he died the next day, and four others were captured, one wounded man making his escape only to be captured three days later. What will be the fate of these prisoners is not yet known, but it is difficult to see how they can escape capital punishment. The city breathes more freely. Many are convinced now that they were mistaken in charging or suspecting the missionaries or their schools of being involved in the movement, as they see the evidence of the Russian's influence."

After such a letter, confirming as it does so many of the Consular Reports in Parliamentary Blue Books as to the existence and activity of an organized and secret revolutionary party in Armenia, one should be slow in believing or in repeating the cry of "religious persecution." There has been no such thing in connection with these Armenian troubles. The Turkish Government has its faults, but having been attacked it has defended itself; that is all there is about it.

Some centuries ago Turkey was one of the greatest military Powers in Europe; to-day she is but a shadow of her former self, and exists merely as a huge "Buffer State" to keep Russia and the Mediterranean apart. Through her doing this all the European Powers, Russia excepted, are interested in her welfare. This they are, however, for their own sakes, not for hers, a fact of which Turkey is perfectly aware, and therefore regards herself as under no special obligation to any. These Powers have frequently called her attention to matters which, in their judgment, required redress; Turkey has courteously listened to their advice, and then generally disregarded it, a negligence which has frequently cost her dear. Her mismanagement of Greece for instance led to her loss of that country; her mismanagement of the Lebanon has, in a measure, cost her the control of that district; her mismanagement of Egypt has resulted in the dynastic rights of the present Khedive; her mismanagement of the Danubian Provinces has practically cost her those countries, and now the cry is heard that her mismanagement of the Armenians should cost her her position in reference to them. Britain, forsooth, is asked to interfere in order to prevent "religious persecution." But she is not addressed by any body competent or entitled to do so; what she is asked to do is not within her power, and what is really wanted is something wholly different from what is asked for. In the case before us Christianity is neither attacked nor injured, nor can the battle of religious liberty ever be fought

out with Turkey over the shoulders of the Old Armenian Church. The root of all the trouble is not so much maladministration as failure to maintain order between free moving bands of plundering highland nomadic Kurds and commercial, farming lowland Armenians. Occasionally, a Moslem Governor is slow in pursuing the plunderers; this the Armenians regard as a deliberate intention to have them all robbed and murdered; they then seek to defend themselves by Secret Societies, and mutter and murmur against the authorities, whereupon these imagine that some wide conspiracy is on foot, and thus the Armenians naturally come to grief. This we believe to be an honest statement of the main facts in the case.

To talk of autonomy and of the interference of the Powers in such a case is absurd. The end would be gained if the Turkish Government would but carry out the promises made in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané of 1839, the Hatti-Humayoum of 1856, or the subsequent legislation of the same character. In securing this, all that outside parties can do is to exercise a little "diplomatic pressure" on the Sultan for the better administration of the wild regions in the east of Asia Minor, where these outrages generally take place. The poor Sultan has, however, a hard time of it. Leave him to himself and as an absolute Ruler, order, like that of Warsaw, might soon reign through all his dominions, but the Western Powers object to the methods necessary for such, and insist on his employing those of a totally different character, methods which he regards as suitable perhaps for Western people, but not for Orientals. He is thus between two pressures. If he use the iron hand, he imperils his Throne through the action of the Powers; if he use a velvet hand, he imperils his Throne through the turbulence of some of his subjects and of his powerful Pashas. The truth is, that Turkey just now is in a transitional state, and many of the problems of her Government will be best solved by education and time, by a growth from within. The existing system of law leaves hardly anything to be desired, but the laws need to be carried out. It is questionable, for instance, if all the local Governors, or even all the higher officials, believe that the declarations of the Hatti-Humayoun were ever intended for Turkey, or for anything else than outside effect. A foreign Government is entitled to assume that the elaborate system of administration contained in the documents we have mentioned was intended to be a reality, and so assuming to press on the Turkish authorities that by attention to these the present discontent would lose its only plausibility. As things are, the Government is very much of a blistor; it ought to be, and can easily become, an emollient, and we trust that our new Ambassador at the Porte will show that he is sent to urge and to aid the Sultan in securing, as soon as possible, good order within his dominions. Such will carry with it all those reforms as to religious liberty on which the heart of Protestant Christendom is so earnestly set.

No. 19[a].

The Earl of Rosebery Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1894.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 9 of the 10th instant relative to the case of the Armenian, Mikail Sanossian, imprisoned at Bailbourt on a political charge.

I approve of your having addressed the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 20.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 32.)

Sir *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1894.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 23 of the 13th instant regarding the trial of Gaspar and four other Armenians at Angora.

I approve your proposal to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to Gaspar's statement, that he had been subjected to torture by the Kaïmakam of Tchorourn.

You should urge his Highness to insist on a complete inquiry, which the Governor-General of Angora seems inclined to discourage.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 21.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Foreign Office, February 1, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 29th November last, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to inform you that inquiry has been made by the British Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople into the alleged imprisonment of Mgr. Yesnik, Armenian Bishop of Arabgir at Jerusalem.

The matter was referred to Her Majesty's Consul in that city, who reports that the Bishop is in no respect a prisoner, but is residing in the Armenian Convent, where he is treated like the other inmates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 2, 1894, 4:20 P.M.

THE imprisonment of some Armenians, naturalized American citizens, has created a question between Turkey and the United States. The Ottoman Minister in Washington has been seriously warned by the United States' Government that if these persons are not released very strong measures will be taken.

If the American Government show themselves to be in earnest, the Porte will probably give way.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, correcting a misstatement in his despatch of the 14th December last on the subject of Mikail Sanossian, who is imprisoned at Baibourt.

I have brought this correction to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Erzeroum, January 3, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th December, 1893, I have the honour to report that the Armenian prisoner Mikail, son of Markar Sanossian, has been brought to Erzeroum from Baibourt.

From subsequent inquiry it appears that I was wrong in stating that this man had not yet been brought to trial; he was tried before the Baibourt Court and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, and has appealed against that sentence to the Superior Court (Istinaf) at Erzeroum. The other details reported in my above-

mentioned despatch with regard to this case are, so far as I can ascertain, substantially correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1894.

WITH reference to Sir William White's despatch No. 208 of the 5th June, 1889, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the election by the Council of Van of Archbishop Boghos to represent their Patriarch as Murakhas Vekil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Erzeroum, January 4, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the selection by the Armenian Council of Van of Archbishop Boghos to represent their Patriarch as Murakhas Vekil.

For the antecedents of this ecclesiastic, Mr. Devey refers to the third inclosure to his despatch of the 13th April, 1889, which was transmitted to Her Majesty's Embassy in Colonel Chermside's despatch of the 27th June, 1889. It will be seen that the account there given of Mgr. Boghos is hardly a flattering one, and in view of his bitter and lifelong hostility to the new Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, Mgr. Khrimian, it is difficult to reconcile his present almost unanimous election with the wide popularity and influence said to be enjoyed by the Catholicos in Van, if the electing Council are really representative of the Armenian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Van, December 26, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Archbishop Boghos Effendi has been selected by the Armenian Council of Van almost unanimously to represent their Patriarch as the Van Murakhas Vekil. Of 30 votes, 26 were recorded for, and 1 against, the Bishop.

At the present conjuncture, I doubt if a better choice could have been made, and trust it will be confirmed at Constantinople.

A short biographical notice of this ecclesiastic will be found attached to my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of 1889. He was designate to Bitlis a few months ago, but did not proceed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 37.)

Constantinople, January 19, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Consul Graves and Mr. Consul Longworth, dealing with the difficulties which are being raised by the authorities to native Protestants possessing places of worship. With respect to the case of the Protestants at Ordou, on which Dr. Parmelee writes to Mr. Longworth, I quite recently urged the Foreign Minister to settle the matter, and he gave orders that the question should be attended to without delay. In regard to the general question, as raised by Mr. Graves, I have asked Mr. Boyajian, the Representative at Constantinople of all Protestant communities, to draw me up a Memorandum, and I propose, when I receive it, to call the serious attention of the Grand Vizier and of the Foreign Minister to the injustice which is being exercised towards the Protestants, and to the manner in which they are deprived of that liberty of worship which has been decreed by Imperial rescripts.

I have spoken to the United States' Minister on the subject, and have suggested to him that he should give me his co-operation in my action at the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Erzeroum, December 26, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have just received private information to the effect that, in the Egin Caza of Kharput Vilayet, two Protestant chapels have been closed by order of the authorities on the ground that no Firmans exist for these buildings. My informant tells me that these so-called chapels are merely dwelling-houses, used temporarily for purposes of worship, the communities being too poor to erect proper churches for which Firmans would be obtained, and they are therefore debarred from holding any religious services whatever.

I also learn that the American missionaries have occasion to complain of the behaviour of some of the Kharput authorities; they are closely watched while touring in the district, and one of them has been told by the authorities that "the Government did not like to have foreigners going about among the people."

At the same time, the Director of Public Instruction (Muarif Mudiri) of Kharput has requested the Rev. Mr. Barnum, of the Kharput College, to hand over to him certain "objectionable" books, such as Milton's "Paradise Lost," and the works of Shakespeare, &c. Mr. Barnum has complied so far as copies of these works in the hands of native members of the college are concerned, but refuses to hand over those in his private library. Upon this he understands that the Vilayet authorities telegraphed to the Porte, asking what steps they should take in case it was necessary to search the houses and schools of foreigners, and that the reply given was that they should report the matter to the Central Government, who would inform the Embassy or Legation concerned, after which they should proceed as in the case of natives. It is as well to add that, so far as I am aware, Mr. Barnum has no certain knowledge that these telegrams were really exchanged between the Kharput authorities and the Porte.

Mr. Boyajian, our Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, has been consulted by Mr. Barnum as to what he should do if this action is taken or threatened by the authorities, and has advised, I venture to think rightly, that in that case he should enter a written protest, copy of which should be sent at once to Mr. Boyajian or to the United States' Consul at Sivas, at the same time reporting the matter directly to the United States' Legation at Constantinople.

As I hold no Berat for the Vilayet of Kharput, and as Mr. Boyajian is only resident there in summer, and without a recognized official standing, it is not in our power to make any official representations to the Kharput authorities. I have therefore thought it best to report these instances of intolerance without waiting for further details, in the hope that such representations as you or the United States' Minister may see fit to make to the Porte may forestall some disagreeable incident, which may now be provoked at any moment by the action of the local authorities, among whom the Director of Public Instruction seems to take the lead in showing hostility to the missionaries and their work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, January 6, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Dr. Parmelee, the American missionary at Trebizond, soliciting the reopening of the Protestant school and chapel at Ordou, through the intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Dr. Parmelee to Consul Longworth.

Trebizond, January 6, 1894.

Sir,

I BEG leave to call your attention to the unhappy condition of the Greek Protestant congregation in Ordou.

Since September 1892 this congregation, numbering some 350 souls, has been without school-house or house of worship because the Government does not allow the people to occupy the only building available and suitable for such use until an official permit is issued. An Imperial Firman has been promised, and the details of its issue are in the hands of Mr. Boyajian, of Constantinople. At the same time, the Embassy at Constantinople kindly assisted in the matter, and secured a pledge from the Porte that the Firman should be issued without undue delay.

The Ambassador also, Sir Clare Ford, in an interview I had with him last May, showed a warm interest in the matter, and indicated his purpose to do his utmost to secure the Firman without delay.

After these months of waiting, I would respectfully inquire whether something may not be done to relieve the situation. When a congregation, made up of loyal subjects of the Sultan, is denied a place in which to worship God, even though for a brief period, can it be claimed that this is the religious liberty which the Turkish Government has many times pledged itself to foreign Powers to maintain in its dominions?

I am sure you will agree with me that it cannot, and therefore the case justifies the vigorous interference of the foreign Powers.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) H. P. PARMELEE.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 22, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch, reporting on the arrival at Angora of a number of Softas from Constantinople. These Softas were sent away from the capital on account of their supposed connection with the posting of a seditious placard, in regard to which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 580 of the 14th December last. I was informed at the time that no evidence was forthcoming as to the Softas having had anything to do with the seditious Proclamations, but the Sultan is very suspicious of the loyalty of that class, and considered it prudent to remove them to a distance from the capital. Any possibility of Moslem disaffection is never openly avowed by the authorities, and the local Turkish press was consequently ordered to explain the deportation of the Softas on the ground of the benevolent solicitude of the Sovereign for the health of a devout class, whose religious preparations for the month of Ramuzan, were they to remain in the capital, might be hampered and disturbed by the cholera epidemic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, January 18, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that up to within a week or ten days ago a number of Softas, amounting to about fifty, came in batches to Angora by train from Constantinople. They commenced coming towards the end of December last, and, though the motive of their departure is variously given, and is no doubt well known by you, it has been connected with Government agency.

The fact that they had free passages, obtained by official intervention, but will have to pay for their return journey, leads me to credit that report.

Though their arrival has not attracted much attention, the presence of these disseminators of fanatical ideas, not to mention other unruly characteristics they may possess, is most undesirable at the present moment in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 27.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 23, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 11th instant, respecting the affairs of Yuzgat, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, transmitting an Armenian Petition to the Commission of Inquiry now sitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, January 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to send you herewith, for your information, a copy and translation of a Petition addressed to the President of the Commission of Inquiry at Yuzgat by the Armenian Protestant and Gregorian communities, in which they recapitulate their grievances, and complain that their co-religionists continue to be ill-treated by Mussulmans.

They accuse the authorities of making partial arrests, and they finally decline to appear before the Court as defendants instead of plaintiffs, as they maintain the case should be.

The petitioners, as representatives of the Armenians affected by the measures taken to suppress any further demonstration of disaffection, have accurately stated the case as viewed by Armenians of the Yuzgat district.

Supported by information which I consider reliable, I have unofficially ventured to suggest to the Governor-General the advisability of dealing with the question in a more impartial manner, and of punishing the perpetrators of the outrages and ill-treatment complained of, but his Excellency, besides asserting that he is imperfectly informed of what is taking place, shields himself behind the independence of the Commission of Inquiry and of the judicial authorities, whose policy of "suppression," in my humble opinion, is more probably dictated by instructions from Constantinople than from motives of religious fanaticism, and it is not surprising if their leniency towards the Mussulman majority is taken advantage of by the fanatical portion of the latter to stimulate the existing ill-feeling between Christian and Moslem, which obviously will not tend to effect a permanent pacification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

Petition presented to the President of the Commission of Inquiry by the Armenian Protestant and Gregorian Communities of Yuzgat.

(Translation.)
Excellency,

IN the Petition presented to your Excellency under date of the 13th December, 1309 (1893), we had laid before your Excellency in detail the lamentable events caused by the Régie Coldjis and police, as also the attack and firing on the part of the Mussulman population upon the Christians gathered in the church and church-house.

The ill-treatment of the Armenians from that date to the present day continues, as well as cases of beating, wounding, and violating the honour of the Armenians in the town and district, so that our nation is trembling with fear; all these assertions are confirmed by the fact that the entire Mussulman population is still parading through the streets bearing arms.

The honour that has been violated was ours, the goods that have been pillaged were ours, the prisoners that have been subjected to tortures were of our kith and kin, the priests and the faith that have been insulted are ours, the Church and nation that have been insulted are ours, and while the perpetrators of these nefarious deeds are allowed to continue their old work, it is to be greatly regretted that not a single Armenian, out of so many thousands, has been included in the Commission of Inquiry sent to the Maden district. All this clearly shows the line of conduct adopted by the local authorities at such a critical moment when our holy cause is being trampled down. Thus, while the real culprits are still going about unpunished and in the same old frame of mind, some of the Notables, in league with the local authorities, are compiling their list of accusations, falsely accusing some as murderers, some as having used arms, others as having been assailants, and others as entertaining evil intentions, and who are consequently being arrested.

As proofs of what we state we mention the cases of Dr. Dieran, of Kimis, Papazian Effendi, of Saratz, and of Artin. These have all become victims of the accusations of one or the other of the accusers.

While thus a nation which came forward as plaintiff is being given the character of a defendant, and being certain that this state of things will get still worse after your departure, we consider it superfluous to be called upon to appear before the Court as defendants, as we are all ready to show obedience to the Government and to go to prison. But we must be excused from appearing as prisoners and defend ourselves against accusations falsely got up against us by the authorities of whose ill-treatment and false accusations we are the victims.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 51.)

Constantinople, January 25, 1894.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL CUMBERBATCH informs me in a private letter that a Petition, of which the inclosed is a copy, sealed by the Protestant Lay Community and the Gregorian Lay and Church Communities at Yuzgat, was left at his Consulate, and as it would be exceedingly perilous to the petitioners to return it to them, he forwarded it to this Embassy. Mr. Cumberbatch observes that, although the language is somewhat exaggerated, the occurrences as reported in the Petition are not overstated.

Mr. Cumberbatch adds that allowance must be made for the naturally disturbed state of the minds of people at Yuzgat caused by the severe measures which the authorities have thought fit to adopt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Petition of Armenians of Yuzgat to Consul Cumberbatch.

Yuzgat, December 25, 1893.

Eminent Sir,

FOR many years the disasters befallen to the Christians in Turkey are beyond expression. Only a Jeremiah, indeed, can lament the calamities of our unhappy nation. The rod of tyranny on us is heavier than that of Pharaoh on the Israelites.

We have longed to find some shelter under the strong wings of a Christian State. Anyhow, this was never ventured. But with the years increase the oppressions and outrages. Specially some horrific events that took place during this year have obliged us to search a refuge and a helping hand. So we feel ourselves under the obligation of importuning your Excellency with the briefest outlook of our most lamentable state. Be thoroughly convinced that the description presented below is wholly exempt of exaggeration.

Eminent Sir, our lives are always in peril, our honour is insulted. Our virgin maidens are deflowered, and adulteries are committed on our young ladies. Our properties are pillaged. Countless obstacles are raised in hindrance of our commerce. Our petitions and complaints to the Government are to no effect, because the officers complained to are as corrupt as those complained of. Consequently, crime, vice, robbery, pillage, barbarity, and the like are turned to ordinary things. It is evident that the Circassians, banished in [?] from Caucasus and Roumelia to these districts, are famous in those respects. The Kurds, too, whose profession, handed down from father to son, is merely brigandage, are more savage than Tippoo Tip Mr. Stanley met in dark Africa. On the other hand, the Turkish vulgar and peasantry, encouraged by the course of the officials, and deluded by the intrigues of the so-called nobles, persons who have accumulated their wealth using the basest and the vilest means, do all kinds of violence, and, above all, our religion, sacred to all Christians, is daily blasphemed.

Innumerable calumnies are forged, and in this way the prisons are packed up with Armenians exposed to insupportable torments and tortures. Though in the light of Christianity and civilization the infliction of such torments may seem incredible, yet the case is incontestably true as an axiom.

We shall suffice mentioning merely a few of them. For instance, the prisoners are hung with chains and strings. Their bodies are burnt with heated tongs and iron bars. Water and urine are poured over them, and that in this cold season. Their testicles are twisted. They are left to starvation. No consent to interview with their parents and relations. No one can forward his petition; moreover, the writers and the deliverers, too,

are imprisoned. No remedy is offered for the sickness occasioned from those tortures, and, above all, the dying and those in agony are deprived of consolation and religious ceremonies, as no priest or pastor is allowed to visit these unfortunate ones of the world.

Eminent Sir, as though these were insufficient to fill the goblet of bitterness, alas! novel heartrending calamities had been reserved. Under the pretext of pursuing highwaymen, the gendarmerie of Yuzgat, those of Kir-Shehir and Maden, after having damaged many an Armenian village, come unawares to Kara-Chayir and Kara-Yacoob, take the husbands out of their beds and chain them among the cries and tears of the terrified women and children; then dragging the women, fourteen in number, carry into a room and there deflower the virgin girls relentlessly, and expose the young brides to their lusty and brutal appetites. After the departure of the gendarmerie, these miserable women, leaving the deserted villages, had hastened to Yuzgat to put the case before the National Assembly. "Evil news rides fast."

Under the influence of the news of this savagery many steps were attracted toward the Chamber of the Assembly. Meanwhile the church bell began to toll.

The Armenians, thinking an extraordinary event to be occurred, were assembled within the walls of the church. All burst into tears at the details of the horrific event. It was thought to write a Petition and to deliver it to His Majesty the Grand Sultan in care of a special deputy, as the telegraph is shut against the Armenians.

While these preparations were going on in the presence of the Brigadier-General, who had come to ask the cause of the ringing of the bell, his Highness, too, moved to compassion, mingled his tears with those of the people, and the tears trickling over his martial face changed the scene into a real tragedy; against the arrangements of his Highness and the expectation of the people, guns were discharged by the Hamidieh soldiers and the gendarmerie brought only for protection.

The Turkish mob, armed with all kinds of weapons, had surrounded the walls of the church. Instantly a warning reached that attacks and slaughters are going on in the streets. At the warning the people rushed out. Persons of presence of mind hurried to their houses to take their arms in defence of the Christians. These and the prudent efforts of the Brigadier-General prevented a dreadful massacre. Many were wounded and several were killed from both sides. So the disorganization of the Government, and the law being a dead letter, the inability of the officers and the like, after having nihilated the rights of the subjects, have given birth to terrible events as that of the 12th day of December. Owing to the terror inspired by that horrible event and the threats of new attacks, the churches, the schools, and the market were closed, commerce was ceased, and for want of living the tears of the poor were flowing in torrents. Nearly a fortnight after, a deputation commissioned by the Sultan arrived. These personalities, promising security and the strict administration of rights and justice, gave orders to open them.

Eminent Sir, all these are preying on the heart of the poor Armenian nation. But the sheer thought that our once civilized nation should be left to sink into ruin and fade away into oblivion overwhelms us with terror and horror. History's pages of light testify that this nation has played a considerable part in the exploits of religion and civilization, and it is in this way that she is almost thinned out.

Then, O England, the greatest of Christian Powers, O ye noble sons of freedom and humanity, O ye our patrons, has not the time come when ye will do the favour of freeing us from the bonds of slavery? If the spirit of the age has extinguished the religious zeal and enthusiasm, we believe that no Peter the Hermit is to preach new crusades for the relief of the Christians crushed under the despotic rule of Turkey, for the enfranchisement of the lands made sacred by the blood of our devoted ancestors. Yet the age is one of humanity. In the name of humanity at least will you not lend a helping hand?

Eminent Sir, although we have waited long eagerly to see the opening of a new era, and the dawn of hope and joy, with the Treaty signed in the Congress of Berlin, but unhappily years have elapsed and no sign of reformation is perceived.

So far as the part of the Treaty concerning Turkey is not executed, as laws meeting the demands of time are not enacted, as the temporary laws published are mixed with the laws of the Muhommedan religion, no Constitution, neither reformation nor organization, is possible.

Eminent Sir, we have only one glimpse, a morning star, to disperse the dark gloom brooding all over. The international law has conferred on your sovereignty both the right and responsibility of protecting our rights and promoting our welfare. When will Great Britain, our patron, carry into effect her arbitration and guaranty? When will she realize our dear hopes and expectations? Is it when the funeral bell of our nation will begin to peal announcing eternal death? Will it be written as the epitaph of our nation, "Here

lies a nation that is ruined for want of a helping hand"? Alas! she is destructed in her vain hopes. . . . . Our nation is in agony now. If our Moses, our dear England, delays to show his wonders to this modern Pharaoh, we shall be buried under the sands of tyranny.

This is, in short, the lamentable state of our nation and country. In this critical moment we present humbly this entreaty to your Eminence. Noble Sir, will your Excellency be kind enough to employ the best means of relieving us from this insupportable state? We sign this entreaty with the bitter tears of the Armenians, specially those residing in this province and the surrounding districts.

We are, Sir, sure that through the excellent efforts of your Excellency the bow of peace, joy, hope, and freedom will shine on our tears of bitterness.

We remain, &c.

(Seal of Protestant Armenian Community of Yuzgat.)
(Seal of Gregorian Lay Community of Yuzgat.)
(Seal of Gregorian Church Community of Yuzgat.)

P.S.—If we, the signers of this writing of entreaty, be revealed to the Turkish officers, the infliction of punishment on us is surely death penalty.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 53.)
Pera, January 26, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Longworth, forwarding copy of a Petition on behalf of a number of Armenian political prisoners detained in prison at Sivas. I will call the attention of the Grand Vizier to their continued detention, and suggest that they should be tried without further delay, if there are any substantial charges against them.

I am afraid there would be little hope of the Ottoman Government being disposed to adopt at the present moment the suggestions made by Mr. Consul Longworth, as many proposals for the better government of the provinces have been made to them on more than one occasion with little appreciable effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, January 22, 1894.

Sir,

DR. JEWETT, in his letter of the 9th instant, forwards me an appeal signed by six individuals, and drawn out on behalf of eighty-three Armenian political prisoners at Sivas.

The Petition in its simplicity and moderation bears a certain mark of genuineness about it which impresses me with the belief that many, if not all, these suspects are innocent.

I inclose herewith a copy of it, though our acceptance of such a document is not in accordance with regulations.

Can nothing be done for these poor wretches? They are surely entitled to fair treatment, if not to leniency.

The Porte would do well, I think, to ascertain precisely on what grounds, and on whose accusation, are each of these persons retained in prison pending a tardy trial. I would, moreover, venture to suggest the advisability of the Porte putting some kind of limit to this persecution. A general order, I think, should be issued enjoining on provincial authorities the exercise of greater moderation, the acceptance, in short, of bail for such as are not conclusively shown to be political criminals. Such an order, I firmly believe, would be more conducive to the pacification of the country than any other measure; and this particularly so if Governors are personally held responsible for any abuse of power practised by their subordinates.

Dr. Jewett estimates the number of political prisoners awaiting trial within the vilayet as 100 at Sivas, 60 at Marsovan, and 50 at Amassia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Armenian Prisoners to British Consul, Sivas.

[Printed literally.]

A M. le Consul de la Grande-Bretagne, Sivas,

EN pleine foi sur la bienveillance avec laquelle vous voudrez bien nous écouter, nous vous prions instamment au nom de l'humanité souffrante, de nous faire l'obligeante amabilité de faire parvenir nos plaintes amères à l'Ambassade de la Grande-Bretagne à Constantinople.

Nous souffrons terriblement, Monsieur, au nom de la Chrétienté, nous souffrons dans les prisons ainsi que sous nos toits. Nous n'irons pas chercher assez loin le récit de la vie que mènent nos compatriotes dans les autres vilayets, nous craignons vous importuner par le détail de nos propres malheurs.

Quel est l'Arménien qui n'ait pas souffert jusqu'ici? le capitaliste dévore son capital; le pauvre, sans secour et gêné par la dette publique, suffit à peine réparer sa faim et sa nudité. Les paysans Musulmans qui ont des affaires avec les Arméniens en général et qui leur débitent beaucoup, suivent l'exemple du Gouvernement pour maltraiter les pauvres Arméniens, leurs créditeurs. Il y a aujourd'hui plus d'un Arméniens emprisonnés, qui sont envoyés par les Mudirs des villages, sous prétexte qu'ils ont tenu un langage blessant la politique du pays, ou bien qu'ils furent en relation avec les fuyards qui se sont échappés aux injustices du Gouvernement.

Nos enfants ne sont pas moins infortunés que nous. Les écoles sont fermées en général, faute de maîtres que le Gouvernement exile ou emprisonne quelque innocents qu'ils soient. On nous inquiète sous nos propres toits; nous ne sortons guère les soirs de chez nous sous la peine d'amende et de long prison. Nous serions assez heureux si nos malheurs se terminaient dans ces petites misères. Depuis une année le Gouvernement nous poursuit acharnément. Notre vie n'est plus qu'une suite d'atroces tourments, de dur emprisonnement et d'intolérables outrages que nous souffrons patiemment au nom de la Chrétienté. Nous défaire de cette vie pénible, ce nous serait un grand bonheur, si l'on ne nous imputait pas de lâches qui succombent devant les malheurs et les injustices, et si la vie que nous supportons n'appartenait à nos enfants aussi bien qu'à nous. Certes vous vous êtes déjà pleinement informé des événements qui se sont passés l'hiver passé à Marsovan et dans ses districts. Nous ignorons encore si vous savez déjà que nous fumes obligés de nous dépouiller pour avoir notre part dans la clémence du Sultan. Croyez, Monsieur, que ce pardon nous a été chèrement vendu par les indignes fonctionnaires de Sa Majesté. On nous a laissés libres pour nous soumettre à de nouvelles épreuves plus dures. Sous prétexte d'arrêter quelques innocents fuyards qui s'étaient échappés l'hiver passé aux cruelles injustices de Kosrov Pacha, le Gouvernement a mis en prison un grand nombre de Arméniens aussi pauvres qu'innocents comme en relation avec les fuyards ou bien comme compromis avec les Socialistes Arméniens, et si l'on fait aujourd'hui le denombrement des prisonniers Arméniens dans ce vilayet, il y aurait un chiffre bien respectable. Toutefois le Gouvernement n'épargne à personne, ni aux femmes, ni aux enfants, ni aux vieillards. A Amasia une jeune mère est emprisonnée depuis six mois avec ses petits enfants; elle n'a d'autre faute que celle d'être la femme d'un Socialiste fugitif.

Le 8 Septembre, à Marsovan, pour arrêter quelques Socialistes fugitifs, le Gouverneur a livré, en pleine ville avec plus de 1,000 soldats, une grande bataille, où furent tués et blessés plus d'un Arméniens. Nous en passons le détail, bien sûr que vous l'avez déjà entendu. Nous craignons vous importuner en détaillant les ridicules accusations dont nous nous sommes imputés; nous vous envoyons sous ce pli les citations lancées contre nous par la Cour d'Accusation de Sivas; elles ne sont qu'une suite d'une logique monstrueuse et malicieuse. Vous aurez alors sous les yeux les causes de notre emprisonnement: d'être riche, pauvre, juste, instruit, en un mot Chrétien! Ah! si nous fuisions la description des cachots affreux, où nous sommes abandonnés les pieds enchaînes et en proie à d'horribles tortures, vous croirez entendre les affreuses épreuves que l'on a fait souffrir dans les années de persecution aux Chrétiens du moyen âge!

Ce n'est pas tout. Notre malheur s'étend encore plus loin. Tous pauvres et seuls soutiens de nombreuses familles, nous souffrons cruellement dans les prisons, et pères, mères, sœurs, épouses fils se tourmentent de faim, trouvant à peine un misérable haillon pour se couvrir. Toutefois nous serions moins désespérés, si l'on nous jugeait avec les lois du pays, communes aux Musulmans et non-Musulmans. Ce n'est pas comme ça du tout, bien que l'on trompe l'Europe; c'est avec un mélange de leur bon plaisir et de lois martiales que l'on nous juge. Nous ne disons plus, bien sûr que nous venons de répéter ce que vous savez déjà et que vous connaissez très bien l'étendue de nos malheurs.

Si c'est là notre vie sous le nez de l'Europe, que serait donc celle de nos compatriotes dans les vilayets lointains? Nous vous la laissons imaginer.

C'est ainsi donc que la noble Angleterre a promis dans la Convention de Berlin de veiller aux droits des Arméniens dans la Turquie? Nous adressons nos plus vives plaintes contre l'indifférence dont elle se porte envers nous. Si nos malheurs ne la touche pas, que ses propres intérêts la touchent; qu'elle se souvienne donc qu'elle a promis et qu'elle doit tenir sa promesse. Déférer à un jour notre question, c'est nous détruire, c'est mépriser les plaintes d'un peuple martyrisé!

En attendant les réformes que l'humaine Europe a trouvées indispensables aux Arméniens de la Turquie, et que la libérale Angleterre a promis de réaliser le plus tôt possible, nous vous demandons, en vous conjurant au nom de l'humanité souffrante, la récompensation de nos offenses et de nos droits violés!

Par procuration de quatre-vingt-trois prisonniers Arméniens de Sivas.

(Signé) PAROUNAGH PARSEGHIAN, *Maître de la langue Nationale dans l'Ecole Primaire d'Amassia.*
STEPAN MARDIROSIAN.
BAGHDASAR G. DIVANIAN.
SHENORK SHADARIAN.
NIGOGHOS BEDROSIAN.
MELKON BENOUHANIAN.

Prison de Sivas, le 25 Décembre, 1893.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February 5.*)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 30,* 1894.

WITH reference to Sir F. C. Ford's despatch No. 491 of the 20th October last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that the sentence of Dikran Gulbenkian has been confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, January 24, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th October last, I have the honour to report that the sentence of ten years' imprisonment passed on Dikran Gulbenkian has been confirmed by the Court of Cassation.

The acquittal, in November last, of A. Gaidzakian, who was accused of complicity with Gulbenkian in the spreading of seditious ideas at Cæsarea, had raised hopes that the efforts being made to obtain a mitigation of the latter's punishment would be successful.

It is not yet known where Gulbenkian is to be sent eventually to undergo his term of imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 31.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February 5.*)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 30,* 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rhodes, reporting the arrival in the island of nine Armenian exiles from Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Vice-Consul Jones to Sir A. Nicolson.

Rhodes, January 24, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 18th instant nine Armenian prisoners (political) exiles from the Province of Angora, were landed at this port from a steamer of the Idarei Mahsussé Company. One of these prisoners, a woman, was taken to the house of the Cadi, but the eight male prisoners were led in chains from the landing-stage to the city gaol.

The exiles, although quartered in the large gaol at night, are not placed with the ordinary prisoners, and, as they are sentenced to be detained within the limits of the city walls, are allowed to go about freely within those limits during the daytime.

I have the honour to add that no reports of their being subjected to harsh treatment have been received here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. FRANCIS JONES.

No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February 5.*)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 30,* 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, forwarding copy of one from Mr. Spadaro respecting Armenian political prisoners at Samsoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, January 12, 1894.

Sir,

MR. SPADARO'S despatch of the 6th instant, copy of which is herewith inclosed, reached me to-day.

I at once called on the Vali, Cadri Bey, who to a certain extent confirmed the news given by our Agent. His Excellency, moreover, promised me to have Captain Moussa Bey suspended should the telegram sent to the Mutessarif of Samsoun, on my suggestion, be answered in the sense that he had been guilty of the allegations brought against him, namely, the ill-treatment of the Armenian political suspects recently arrested in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul Longworth.

M. le Consul, *Samsoun, le 6 Janvier*, 1894.

J'AI l'honneur de vous confirmer ma lettre du 28 Décembre dernier, relative à la question Arménienne, et de vous faire part des divers incidents qui viennent de se produire à Samsoun même.

Il y a deux mois environ le Chef du Comité Arménien Révolutionnaire de Merzifoun nommé Schemavon, homme très entreprenant, très audacieux, originaire du Caucase et sujet Russe, avait été pris à Amassia, après avoir échappé à l'arrestation ou à la mort de presque tous les membres du dit Comité. Je ne sais si c'est l'Ambassade de Russie qui a réclamé Schemavon, ou le Gouvernement Ottoman qui a voulu le lui livrer, mais il est de fait qu'il est arrivé à Samsoun le 31 Décembre sous escorte pour être remis entre les mains du Consul de Russie en notre ville, lequel n'a pas jugé prudent de le retenir prisonnier dans sa résidence craignant qu'il ne s'échappât avant son embarquement sur un vapeur Russe. Les autorités locales enverront en conséquence Schemavon à Constantinople où il sera remis entre les mains de l'Ambassade de Russie.

La police ayant été prévenue qu'une quinzaine d'Arméniens, armés, étaient arrivés de l'intérieur en même temps que Schemavon dans le but de l'enlever ou d'aider à son évasion, a entrepris, dans la nuit du 2 Janvier, des perquisitions fort minutieuses dans plusieurs maisons Arméniennes. Elle a découvert dans le local d'un Sieur Vartighian, un nommé Hétoum, membre du Comité de Merzifoun qu'elle recherchait depuis quelque temps et qui se tenait caché dans une chambre depuis deux mois. Elle l'a arrêté ainsi que Vartighian et un des Arméniens venus de l'intérieur au sujet de Schemavon. Ce dernier, originaire de Samsoun, se nommé Vicen Arménak Caloustian. Interrogé par le Juge d'Instruction, il a fait des aveux qui ont amené d'autres arrestations d'Arméniens de notre ville dont celle de Zaroukian, négociant, et d'une sage-femme dont la maison servait de refuge à plusieurs que la police recherchait.

Il me revient de diverses sources que tous ceux qui ont été emprisonnés, à l'exception de Schemavon, ont subi et subissent, pendant la nuit, d'odieux traitements de la part du Capitaine de la Gendarmerie, Moussa Bey, connu d'ailleurs pour sa brutalité et son fanatisme.

J'apprends qu'à Merzifoun une quarantaine d'Arméniens ont été tout récemment arrêtés et que l'autorité locale allait se livrer à de nouvelles arrestations.

A Tokat il a été affiché des placards visant les autorités de la ville.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. SPADARO.

No. 33.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 30, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting further on affairs at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Angora, January* 22, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that I learn from an official source that the Petition addressed to the Sultan by the Armenian Protestant and Gregorian communities of Yuzgat, copy of which I sent you in

the above-mentioned despatch, has been communicated to the President of the Commission of Inquiry now sitting at Yuzgat, with instructions to proceed against the members of the police force complained against. This somewhat tardy action on the part of the Government is to be commended, though it is somewhat doubtful whether any satisfaction will be obtained by the victims of the cruelties therein mentioned.

In the meantime, I have called the Vali's attention to the fact that only Christians are to be put on their trial in connection with the riot of the 12th December, and I have remarked upon the bad impression likely to be caused by apparently partial arrests.

The reason assigned by his Excellency for the absence of Mussulmans among the thirty-two persons he says have been arrested is one which has been given in former similar cases, viz., that no one has come forward to accuse any individual Turk, whilst the contrary has been the case as regards the Armenians, whose victims were more numerous than those of the Mussulman rioters.

I observed that this was no doubt due to the want of encouragement given to the Armenians, and his Excellency said he would call the attention of the President of the Commission to the matter.

The trial is to take place shortly at Yuzgat, and Arif Bey, Procureur-Général of this vilayet, who has been actively working up the case for the prosecution, has been appointed President of the Special Tribunal instituted *ad hoc*. This arrangement may procure a speedy termination of the proceedings on account of his legal abilities, but it cannot be considered strictly regular. This official was rewarded for his management of the prosecution of Professor Thoumaian and his fellow-prisoners with the rank of "Oula-senf-evvel," and will, I am afraid, be inclined to show the same zeal in the hopes of further recompense.

The outlook for the Armenians is not a happy one, and we must expect a repetition of the severe sentences of last year, especially as a revolutionary colour is likely to be given to the whole affair, which it will probably be attempted to connect with the "movement" of last winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord, *Pera, January* 30, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Graves reporting the death of Haidar Pasha, Vali of Erzeroum, and explaining the necessity of the appointment of a firm and just man as his successor.

I regret to say that, simultaneously with the receipt of Mr. Graves' despatch, the appointment is announced of Hakki Pasha as Vali of Erzeroum. The selection is singularly unfortunate, as Hakki Pasha was practically recalled from the Governorships of the three Vilayets of Broussa, Sivas, and the Hedjaz which he held on different occasions. His incompetency and neglect of his duties have rendered him a failure in every Government post which he has held; and it would have been difficult to have found a less suitable functionary for the important position to which he has now been named. I am informed that his connection with some high Palace officials has procured for him his present nomination; and though I knew it would be of no avail, I called the attention of the Grand Vizier and of the Foreign Minister to the very unsatisfactory appointment which had been made. Both denied that Hakki Pasha was so incompetent and so unequal to the post as I had represented; and both assured me that I should find that he would carry out his duties very creditably.

His past record affords no grounds for this expectation; and neither the Grand Vizier nor the Foreign Minister were able to assert that he had succeeded in any of the administrative posts which he had formerly held.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)

Erzeroum, January 16, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday the 14th instant the Vali of Erzeroum, Haidar Pasha, died after a lingering illness. The Cadi remains temporarily in charge of the affairs of the Vilayet.

Haidar Pasha, who was only appointed to Erzeroum about sixteen months ago, had formerly been Mutessarif at Kaiserieh and Broussa, and then a member of the Intihab Commission at Constantinople. During his tenure of office, the condition of the province has deteriorated in almost all respects, and there can be no doubt that the late Vali's natural indolence and weak health largely contributed to this result. In fact, it may be said that the only qualities which he showed as a Governor were negative, and the most estimable of these was his disinclination to entertain or press the groundless political accusations against Armenians which have been so frequent of late years.

The task of the new Vali, whoever he may be, will be a difficult one. Scarcity, amounting to famine in some districts, prevails throughout the province, and the want of communications and proper organization renders the work of bringing relief from without both difficult and costly. The provincial Treasury is empty, and seems likely to remain so, for trade and agriculture are at the lowest possible ebb, partly owing to two bad harvests in succession, but still more to the insecurity of the Kurdish portions of the vilayet.

To cope with this state of affairs would tax the energies of the strongest Governor, acting in harmony with the military authorities. Such harmony, however, has not existed in the past, excepting when the Governor has allowed all the requirements of civil administration to be made subservient to the wishes of the Military Commander, and I venture to predict that the best Vali who can be appointed to Erzeroum is foredoomed to failure, unless he comes here in a position of greater authority and independence in this respect than his predecessors. If such a course is not pursued, it appears to me that it would be desirable to invest the Marshal Commanding the Fourth Army Corps with the civil authority also, as Vali of Erzeroum. He would then become more fully alive to the disorders arising from the non-recognition of civil jurisdiction by the Kurds enrolled in the Hamidiye regiments, and in his military capacity he would be able to enforce his authority over them, and reduce them promptly to obedience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 5, 1894, 12·15 P.M.

I HAVE to-day received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora:—

"Conflicts occurred at Yuzgat on Friday and Saturday last between the Armenians and Turks. The alleged cause of the disturbances was an attack by armed men on the police when engaged in executing some orders of the Courts.

"The troops are being reinforced, and martial law has been proclaimed."

No. 36.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)

Pera, February 3, 1894.

My Lord,

I WAS informed yesterday that a difficulty, which might become serious, had arisen between the United States' Government and the Sublime Porte in respect to the continued imprisonment of some Armenians, naturalized American citizens. My informant stated that the Secretary of State had sent for the Ottoman Minister at Washington, and had declared to the latter that, if the Ottoman Government continued to imprison individuals belonging to the above-mentioned category, the United States' Government would feel itself obliged to take measures which would have very disagreeable consequences to the Sublime Porte.

I called on the United States' Minister and inquired of him what had occurred, and whether it were true that his Government intended taking energetic action. Mr. Terrell said that he had heard nothing from Washington during the last few days, but he should not be surprised if something disagreeable would take place, as the patience of his Government was exhausted. He said he would tell me confidentially the whole story. Some months ago a certain number of Armenians, naturalized in the United States, commenced coming over from America; and as the Armenian agitation was then active, many of the visitors were imprisoned, and his Legation had endless difficulties with the Sublime Porte to procure their release. The United States had no Treaty with Turkey which governed the status of these individuals, and his Government maintained that they were American citizens and under American protection, even though they returned to the country of their origin. Nevertheless, he had been anxious not to throw the ægis of American protection over men who were possibly elements of disturbance, or in any case unwelcome guests of the country to which he was accredited. He had, therefore, made certain concessions, and had come to an arrangement with the Sublime Porte by which he agreed to permit the expulsion from Ottoman territory of such naturalized Americans, after a reasonable time—a very short period—had been allowed them to transact the business on which they were engaged, and to see their relations and friends. He had, at the time, made it distinctly clear to the Sublime Porte that on no account would the United States' Government admit the right of the Ottoman Government to imprison individuals provided with American passports.

Mr. Terrell said he had hoped that the Sublime Porte would faithfully observe its part of the arrangement, which was a verbal and not a written one; but he regretted to tell me that, at the present moment, there were two or three individuals in prison whose release his continual efforts had been unable to obtain.

He had warned the Sublime Porte of the serious light in which his Government would view the disregard of his representations, and the unjust treatment of naturalized American citizens; but a deaf ear had apparently been turned to his remonstrances, and the matter was now in the hands of his Government, who would know how to deal with the case.

No doubt the Ottoman Government will yield when they see that further resistance will lead to compulsory measures; but it is unfortunate that they should thus push matters to extremities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 37.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 8, 1894, 7·15 P.M.

IN continuation of my preceding telegram, I have the honour to repeat the following telegram received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora:—

"The Governor and new Military Commissioner left to-day for Yuzgat, escorted by eighty cavalry from Constantinople.

"I have no news of further troubles."

I learn also that the order given for the proclamation of martial law has been revoked, or at least suspended.

No. 38.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 37.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 37 of the 19th ultimo, regarding the opposition raised by the Turkish authorities in the Kharput Vilayet and at Ordou to the possession of places of worship by the native Protestants, and I approve the course which you propose to take in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 39.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 10, 1894.*

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the course you propose to adopt with regard to the Armenian prisoners at Sivas, as reported in your despatch No. 53 of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 40.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 10, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 62 of the 30th ultimo, announcing the appointment of Hakki Pasha as Vali of Erzeroum, and commenting upon his unfitness for such a post.

I approve the representations addressed by you on the subject to the Grand Vizier and the Foreign Minister.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 41.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 51. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 14, 1894.*

THE Turkish Ambassador informed me to-day that he had been in communication with religious Societies and others with a view to correcting the false impressions respecting the treatment of Christians in Turkey, which had been produced by M. Thoumaian and those acting with him. In this endeavour he had met, as he hoped, with some success.

His Excellency added that Mr. Herrick, the President of the College at Marsovan, had called upon him to announce that he was completely disabused of any sentiment in favour of M. Thoumaian, and washed his hands of him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, with inclosures, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting disturbances by Kurds at Jezireh and Deh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, January 24, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, on the subject of recent disorders among the Kurds of Jezireh, and in the Deh district of Bitlis.

Mr. Boyajian in his earlier despatch incloses copy of a letter which was addressed to him from Jezireh by the Rev. Mr. Andrus, a missionary, who visited that place in December and gives a deplorable account of the exactions and oppressions of the Kurdish Chiefs on the Christian population, the Local Government being, as he states, quite impotent to restrain them.

The disturbances in Deh seem to have originated in a blood feud between tribal Chiefs of the Kurds, as explained at length by Mr. Boyajian, who calls attention to the danger of serious troubles arising in the coming spring, unless the Government deals vigorously with the chief actors in these scenes of turbulence.

I have marked this despatch Confidential as it is important that the names of Mr. Andrus, and of the native pastor from whom he obtained much of his information, should not transpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Diarbekir, December 19, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, as intimated in my last private letter, copy of Mr. Andrus' letter, from the perusal of which you will be able to form an idea of the state of things in the districts mentioned in it.

You may be aware, for it was reported by me at that time in a private letter, that early last spring the Governor-General was informed that Mustafa Pasha, the Chief of the nomad Kurds and also the Commander of the Hamidieh regiments formed from his own tribe, had caused the murder of Gul Mehemed, a man of considerable note in the tribe, and several others. His Excellency Surri Pasha ordered that a thorough investigation should at once be made into the case by judicial and other officials, and the result of this inquiry was the exoneration of Mustafa Pasha from the charge, though on the other side it was affirmed that there was strong evidence of his being the author of the crime. Upon this the wife of the murdered Gul Mehemed appealed to an influential Chief living in Deh (Bitlis district), to whose family she belonged. This man joined with Mehemed Agha Isor, a notorious Chief of Shirnak (Bitlis), and they made common cause in revenging themselves upon the supposed criminal. In the latter part of the spring Mustafa Pasha and his tribe crossed the

Tigris in search of pasture for their numerous flocks, as is their custom to do every summer, in the mountainous regions of the Bitlis vilayet; they were attacked by the above-mentioned Chiefs and their followers and a desultory fight ensued, in which I am told many were slain. The Government, however, quelled the disturbance by dispatching soldiers to the spot and doing what under the circumstances could be done, but the chief actors in the affray went off without receiving any sort of punishment, and it appears that the sufferings of the peaceable inhabitants of the districts, described by Mr. Andrus, are mostly to be attributed to the affair above related.

I beg leave to call your particular attention to the third paragraph of the inclosure, in which my correspondent entertains fears for the coming spring unless the Government takes a vigorous action and deals with Mustafa Pasha and others named.

With reference to collecting back taxes, I must state that it is a very complicated question, and Mr. Andrus may have been misled in throwing all the fault upon the Government; that the tax gatherers and gendarmes are causing a considerable amount of trouble and inconvenience is an undeniable fact, and, in many cases, though not all, it is true that the villagers have paid the whole or part of their taxes, and yet it is demanded from them again, but the fault does not rest with the Government always. It is the fault of these ignorant people who, after being warned by the authorities, again and again, that they should pay directly their taxes to the District Treasury and receive their vouchers, continued to put their money carelessly into the hands of irresponsible men or the Heads ("Moukhtars") of the villages chosen by themselves, who, instead of paying it to the District Treasury and receiving receipts for the sums, put the whole or part of the money into their pockets, and the deluded villagers never took the trouble to find out the actual state of the case. It is for this cause that a large amount of arrear taxes appear now in the Government account as they really have not been paid to the Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

Diarbekir, December 22, 1893.

Sir,

IN connection with my despatch of the 19th instant, I beg leave to state that the districts and men mentioned in Mr. Andrus' letter belong mostly to the Bitlis province, but Mustafa Pasha, with his tribe, lives part of the year in that of Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 42.

Mr. Andrus to Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian.

(Confidential.)

Jezireh, November 17, 1893.

Dear Mr. Boyajian,

I HAVE been a week in this place and, among other things, have looked into the cases of Pastor Eleya, of the village of Hassana, who, with his family, felt compelled to flee to this place, and also of the preacher of Shakh, Shammas Shakho, who, with his family, fled to this place because his house had been broken into, and who feared that the next step of the Agha would be to compel him to give up his daughters to Moslems, as only two months ago was done by Tohun Agha in the very village of Shakh.

1. I was asked of Mr. Ainslie, now of Mosul, to examine into these cases for him and to report to Mosul, as both pastor and preacher are under the Presbyterian Board, to which Mosul has been transferred. I feel confident that the Government here is utterly unable to protect either the Pastor of Hassana or the preacher of Shakh from the insults and exactions of the Aghas of Shernokh and Shakh, even if they were to return to their congregations, and have so reported to Mr. Ainslie, and recommended their transfer to somewhere near Mosul, at least temporarily.

2. But aside from the individual cases of these preachers, I was able in the course of my investigations to elicit a partial statement of exactions made upon three of the villages about Jezireh, and which serve as a good specimen of what is going on in all the villages about here during all the time. Knowing you might like to get hold of such a statement as an illustration of the true state of things in these parts I herewith send you a copy.

3. The recent division in the tribe of Kochers has not been healed, but may possibly break out with new violence in the spring unless the Government takes vigorous action and deals with both Mustafa Pasha and Mohamed Agha-a-Sohr, of Shernokh.

4. The troops which escorted the former from the mountains to Jezireh to protect him and his followers from Mohamed Agha, of Shernokh, are still here.

1. *A partial List of Exactions made upon Monsureeyah by both the Government and Mustafa Pasha (Kochen) in* 1893.

(A.)—*Government Exactions.*

1. Of back taxes the village paid 4,000 piastres and, according to village accounts, only 2,000 piastres remain. Government officials claim that 5,000 piastres remain, but refuse to furnish the village an official account from Government books, that it may know just how much is still due.

Names of fourteen people in the village are twice entered upon the Government list under a slight variation of names, from them a double tax for several years back is demanded, equalling in amount about 4,000 piastres.

3. 2,000 piastres' worth of barley, hens, fat, eggs, &c., have been taken without pay by gendarmes, Bashi-Bazouks, travelling officials, &c., when stopping for a night or collecting taxes in the village.

4. Innumerable beatings and a great deal of forced work on the Sabbath.

(B.)—*Exactions by Mustafa Pasha.*

1. By actual measurement of this year's tithes of grain the money equivalent was found to be 4,000 piastres. But Mustafa Pasha bought up the tithe from the Government for 7,500 piastres. He then collected from the village 9,000 piastres hard money.

2. Upon this the villagers complained of him to the Government, which did nothing to the Pasha. But he upon hearing that they complained of him sent droves of sheep to eat up the late crops from five pieces of ground, such as cotton, millet, flax seed, &c. These crops were valued at 2,000 piastres.

These exactions taken altogether foot up 13,500 piastres. The total of taxes for the current year by the Government amount to about 14,000 piastres.

Monsureeyah is a Christian village but one hour from the seat of Government at Jezireh, but the Government does nothing to protect it from the oppression either of Mustafa Pasha's following or of its own officials.

2. *A partial List of Exactions by the Aghas of Shernokh from the Village of Hassana during the years* 1891–93.

Year.	Exactions.	Pias. p.
1891 ..	1. Use of 18 donkeys, 2 days, at 2½ piastres each per day ..	90 0
	2. „ 10 workmen, 2 „ „ „ ..	50 0
	3. Use of 26 workmen, 2 days, at 2½ piastres each per day (by Osman Agha)	30 0
	4. Use of 18 workmen, 2 days, at 2½ piastres each per day (by Osman Agha)	90 0
	5. 2,000 ceiling sticks to lay over rafters (by Osman Agha) ..	5,000 0
	6. 60 upright poles for supporting roof „ „ ..	300 0
		1,160 0
1892 ..	1. For Sadoon Agha, cash	82 20
	2. „ Khorsheed Agha, cash	117 20
	3. „ Suleiman Agha, cash	100 0
	4. „ Abdo Agha, cash	100 0
	5. „ Hadji Kovan Agha, cash	10 0
	6. „ Ali Rejal Agha, cash	25 0
	7. „ Abraham Agha, cash	12 20
	8. „ Shan Arab, Agha, cash	12 20
	9. „ Abraham Agha, cash	10 0
	10. „ Sadoon Agha, cash	20 0
	11. „ Khorsheed Agha, cash	35 0
	12. „ Tahur Agha, 16 Medjidieh, at 19 piastres	304 0
	13. „ „ 10 donkeys (use of), 2 days, at 2½ piastres each per day	50 0
	14. „ „ 6 men, 2 days, at 2½ piastres each per day	30 0
	15. „ „ 8 pieces cotton cloth, at 10 piastres each	80 0
	16. „ Khorsheed Agha, 1 mare, valued at	750 0
		1,739 0
1893 ..	1. For Mohamed Agha, 30 persons to carry flour, 2 days' work, at 2½ piastres each per day	150 0
	2. „ „ £T. 10	1,000 0
	3. „ „ 15 pieces cotton cloth, at 10 piastres each	150 0
	4. „ Tahur Agha, £T. 14	1,400 0
	5. „ „ from Pastor Eleya, cash, 75 piastres; saddle, 75 piastres; and watch, 200 piastres	350 0
	6. „ Sadoon Agha, £T. 2	200 0
	7. „ Mohamed Agha	120 0
	8. „ Khorsheed Agha	57 0
	9. „ Mohamed Agha, at harvest, 500 labourers, at 2½ piastres each	1,500 0
	10. „ „ for Shakh, to repair road from Shakh to Shernokh, 95 labourers, 3 days, at 2½ piastres per day	487 20
	11. „ „ to repair road from Hassana to Shernokh, 50 labourers, 3 days, at 2½ piastres per day	375 0
	12. „ „ preparation of boiled wheat, 450 labourers, at 2½ piastres each ..	1,125 0
	13. „ „ 14 animals, at 2½ piastres each (to bring wood)	35 0
	14. „ „ 150 labourers on a new house at village of Dater, at 2½ piastres each	375 0
	15. „ „ 2,000 ceiling sticks for roof of same	500 0
	16. „ „ 10 upright poles, at 5 piastres ..	50 0
	17. „ „ from Pastor Eleya, 4 trees for same, at 50 piastres	200 0
		8,074 20
	Total for the three years	10,973 20

Note.—The above list contains only that of which the Pastor of Hassana (Eleya) was personally cognizant. Very much more is done by the Aghas, which he neither

sees or hears of. In addition to the above, all the cotton of Mohamed Agha is beaten, spun, twisted, and woven into cloth by the villagers and then carried by them a day's journey to Shernokh. Whatever loss of weight occurs in the make-up of the cotton they must make good. Behold! these are but parts of their ways!

In order to show the oppression is growing we compare their (recorded) doings for 1880–82 with the above list.

1880–82.	Pias. p.	1891–93.	Pias. p.
Money paid to them	4,141 0	1891	1,160 0
Use of 90 animals	450 0	1892	1,739 0
„ 314 labourers	785 0	1893	8,074 20
Total	5,376 0	Total	10,973 20

P.S.—Total of Government taxes for Hassana for 1893 is about 7,500 piastres. It is a Christian village of about fifty houses, mostly Protestant.

3. *Memorandum (partial) of the general Condition of the Village of Shakh owing to the presence and conduct of their Aghas.*

Mohamed Bey, a nephew of Beder Khan Bey, was appointed by Mohamed Agha, a Sohr of Shernokh, the Commander of his followers during the recent troubles among the Kochers. Since his elevation to that post he has been more frequent and more imperious in his demands upon the villagers both Moslem and Christian.

1. At Ramadan he collected from them 200 piastres.

2. Whenever he has occasion to use money for unusual expenses he turns to the villagers and compels them to supply him with the necessary cash.

3. He makes a daily demand of them for from eight to ten men to work for him as ploughing, bringing wood from the mountain, going on errands to Shernokh, Jezireh, and other places.

In addition to this Bey there are two other Aghas, who also from time to time make demands upon the villagers, Moslem and Christians alike. All three of them together take from the village more than is exacted of them by the Government for taxes. The consequence is that poverty is both general and extreme. Moreover, they dare not flee from their hard lot lest the Aghas, hearing of their intention, should utterly strip them of what little may be left. Shakh is divided into two parts—upper and lower—Moslem and Christian, with from fifty to sixty houses.

4. *Statement respecting Upper and Lower Darah, in the Caza of Deh (Arc).*

1. About a month ago Muho Agha, son of Yunis of Botwah, took 500 piastres from Upper Darah and 120 piastres from Lower Darah.

2. Five days ago, more or less, the same man took 100 sheep from Upper Darah. One of the men secured the return of his sheep by paying a ransom of 100 piastres; he owned twenty-eight of the sheep. Some little time before this the Kaïmakam of Deh was in the village and Muho Agha overheard the Kaïmakam tell some of the villagers to inform him whenever the Agha (Muho Agha) should take anything from them by force. As a challenge to the Kaïmakam for having said what he did the Agha has taken the sheep.

3. Three days ago or so Muho Agha demanded a mule from a dweller in Lower Darah. The man hid the mule, and from anger the Agha sent and drove off as many sheep belonging to that village as he could lay hands on. I never saw the Government of Jezireh more impotent than it is to-day. If the present state of things continues all the villages about this centre—Moslem and Christian alike—will become scattered and peeled. Cannot the hands of the Government be stiffened up in some way? Or are the Kochers and Aghas to have everything their own way?

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. W. ANDRUS.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the baneful influence exercised by the Vali of Sivas, Khalil Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Trebizond, January 29, 1894.*

I ANNEX herewith extract of a private letter from Dr. Jewett, in which he points out the baneful influence exercised by the Governor-General, Khalil Bey, in the prosecution of Armenian political suspects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

(Extract.) *Sivas, January 21, 1894.*

A FEW days ago some revolutionary documents, rifles, and ammunition were found in a mill belonging to an Armenian. I am of the opinion that they were put there by some enemies of the owner of the mill, who is regarded as an unscrupulously mean spy and false accuser.

It seems to me that there is little prospect of the political prisoners getting any sort of justice if the Vali remains here and can control the proceedings of the Court as he has done thus far. I am credibly informed that there is a group of eight prisoners against whom the Public Prosecutor at Amassia first said there was no evidence to indict them, and later said he was instructed to indict them any way. And the "Procureur-Général" even told the Archbishop that these men ought not to be indicted, but that he was under the orders of the Vali and had to indict them as criminals.

No. 44.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 8, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir C. Ford's despatch No. 555 of the 20th November, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting the murder of an informer at Magaroglou.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, February 2, 1894.*

IN my despatch of the 23rd November last I had the honour to report that a double murder of two supposed "informers" had taken place at Ak-dagh Maden, near Yuzgat.

I was subsequently informed that only one man was murdered at that place, and that his name was Couyoumdji (a Greek "rayah").

The other man, a Catholic Armenian, was murdered at Magaroglou, also near Yuzgat. His name was Simon Kahiya, and he was Moukhtar, or Headman, of that village.

The assassination by Armenians of these two men, who were locally suspected of having been "informers" against certain of the prisoners tried at Angora last year, roused a suspicion that Secret Committees were at work again, and this will account for the unusual activity of the authorities, accompanied, however, with unnecessary severity and cruelty, if credence is to be given to the contents of the inclosed paper, which is a translation of an extract from a Petition addressed to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and presented to the Commission of Inquiry sitting at Yuzgat by the Councils of the Protestant and Gregorian communities of Indjirli.

As the main portion of the original document contains general accusations against every class of officials, and exposes the great hardships and ill-treatment suffered at their hands, I need not trouble you with a full version; but that part of the paper dealing with the incident of the murder of the supposed informer, Simon Kahiya, might, I think, be of interest, as the events connected therewith are fully related, and will enable you to form an opinion of the manner in which the pursuit of criminals is conducted in cases where Armenians are concerned.

The incidents narrated occurred shortly before the recent troubles in Yuzgat itself, and they undoubtedly contributed to the list of grievances which gave rise to them.

The document presented to me for perusal, after great difficulties of transmission, has the seal of the two above-named Councils, and can be taken as a sufficiently reliable record of what did take place, and the statements as to the innocence of most of the prisoners now awaiting their trial at Yuzgat in connection with the affair can also be relied upon to a certain extent.

The assertions as to ill-treatment and torture of prisoners are to be found in almost every Petition I have had an opportunity of seeing of late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Petition concerning Events at Indjirli.

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

ON Friday, the 29th October (10th November), 1893, at about 6 o'clock (midday), a person named Simon, of the village of Magaroglou, was murdered by two unknown men at a spot one hour distant from that village. One of the murderers fled up the hill, and the other one in the direction of Magaroglou. The villagers pursued the latter, and called the inhabitants of Indjirli to their assistance. The murderer was captured and confined in a room belonging to Houdem Oglou Calonst. The prisoner escaped from that place, but was recaptured by some young men and was locked up in another house. The Deputy Mudir (Sub-Governor of the district), Dervish Effendi, the zaptieh, Adil Vakkas, and Hadji Hassan Kahya then arrived and handcuffed the prisoner, with the assistance of Yagli Oglou Artin.

The zaptieh, leaving his arms in the room where the murderer was confined, went to another room. At about 4·30 at night (8·30 P.M.) a loud noise was heard in the direction of the room where the murderer was, and it was soon discovered that the place had been attacked by friends of the murderer, who was rescued and fled away. It is supposed that Adil Vakkas, the zaptieh, was not there during the confusion, and

that his companions opened the door. In the meantime Vakkas ran to the village of Leuk, and told Karahadjak Moustapha Agha that sixteen individuals of bad character had attacked the room where the prisoner was confined, and had killed everybody except himself. Thereupon Moustapha Agha wrote to the Governor (Yuzgat) informing him of what had occurred, and sent the public crier round to call upon every household to contribute one man in order to make an attack on Indjirli. All the Leuk people, armed with weapons and heavy sticks, rushed into Indjirli, and not content with pillaging everything they could lay their hands on, such as household goods, poultry, wheat, carpets, &c., they all used insulting language to girls and young women.

Moustapha Agha, on his arrival at Indjirli, drew up, then and there, a *procès-verbal*, in which he lightly passed over the illegalities committed, and gave prominence to the other side of the affray.

Meanwhile, the Governor, in consequence of the first alarming communication, had sent word all round, and had dispatched the Acting "Procureur," the Examining Judge, and the "Régie" coldjis (guards) to all parts of the town, and they searched every corner. That day, the 30th October (11th November), after many houses had been searched, the religion and honour of most of our villagers insulted, the latter were beaten and taken to Leuk. Money was offered to Yagli Oglou Artin to give a false version of the affair, but finding that he would not be bribed they sat upon his mouth and flogged him, in order to extract by force the deposition they wanted. They also had Artin Oglou Caloust and frightened him, writing down what they wanted about the case of Yagli Oglou Artin as being his (Caloust's) deposition. Availing themselves of this opportunity, they imprisoned the Notables of our village on the 31st October (12th November). They tortured every one of them with various kinds of torture. On the 1st (13th) November they bound sixteen persons, and took them to Yuzgat. We were under the impression that our troubles had ended, but on the 3rd (15th) November about forty-five mounted police from Yuzgat, Maden, Kir Shéhir, and Cæsarea arrived, driving before them the Indjirli people who had gone to the flour-mill. They recommenced searching, but without being accompanied by a member either of the Church or of the Lay Committee.

The girls and young women were struck with terror. The following day the search went on, the walls of some houses were pulled down, the boxes of young women were opened and they were compelled to cook such meals as the police required. From some money, jewellery, watches, and other valuables were taken, from others simple arms. On our reporting and complaining about this state of things to the Mudir, Moussa Bey, he exclaimed, "It is all false; get out, you infidel Giaours, you all need to be slaughtered."

At the commencement of these troubles Hadji Kahriman Tchaoush, with some Leuk people, severely beat Haritoun Duvendjian, who was only rescued from their hands by the entreaties of his mother.

On the last day of the pursuit Moussa Bey, after having beaten Midaroglou Toross himself, handed him over to the police to be still further flogged. They seized him, poured water over him, buried him in manure, and severely flogged him.

The very same night, in the room of Krikor Kyahia, two other young men, called Avidis, son of the Rev. Yeguiya, and Kazaros Yardimian were beaten continuously for eight hours in a savage manner and were tortured with red-hot irons.

A man who was present and wanted to inform their parents was bound and only freed some time afterwards.

For eight days the people of our village have been ill-treated in the manner above described, the food we have been sending to our brethren in prison has never reached them, all intercourse with the outside being forbidden them, and, as if it were not enough that they should be left to starve, they pour cold water over them and twist their testicles, and we hear that they are almost in a dying condition.

The Petition which we had prepared and addressed to the Governor soliciting their release was sent to the prison to be signed by the prisoners, but it was handed over by the guard to the Chief of Police without getting the prisoners' signatures. The Chief of Police, standing outside the gates of the Government House, read aloud every sentence of the Petition, uttering at the end of each sentence most offensive words; he then tore up the paper and put the bearer, Ohan Yardimian, into prison, where he has been kept for twelve days.

Yardinian Akbar, his son Ovakim, and Keledjian Harik, who had taken clothes to the prisoners, were cast into prison. A boy, 13 years old, who had been lying ill for three months, was bound while in bed and also thrown into prison. Several innocent

persons who have had no part in the late events have been falsely accused as murderers and arrested notwithstanding very clear proofs of their innocence.

* * * * * *

Being thus unjustly oppressed, and finding ourselves in an indescribable state of sadness and helplessness, we solicit mercy and pity at the hands of our just Sovereign.

(Seal of Armenian Gregorian Council of Indjirli.)
(Seal of Armenian Protestant Council of Indjirli.)

Yuzgat, December 12 (24), 1893.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 79.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 14 of the 5th February, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting the proclamation of martial law at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

Angora, February 5, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of yesterday's date, and to report that on the 1st and 2nd instant further conflicts took place between the Armenians and Turks at Yuzgat, resulting in the death of several persons on both sides.

The official version has it that on the 1st instant a Police Commissary entered the house of an Armenian who had refused to obey the summons of the Court, and was shot at and severely wounded. The policeman who accompanied him was assaulted by the women of the house, armed with various iron implements. The tumult naturally attracted a crowd from all quarters of the town, and the scenes of the 12th December were repeated on a larger scale, lasting two or three days, in the course of which a subordinate officer of the gendarmerie was injured, and several Turks, including policemen and gendarmes, were killed and wounded. On the other side there must also have been several victims.

The Government have consequently decided upon adopting severe measures, and have proclaimed martial law in the Sandjak of Yuzgat, the Armenian population of that district being considered by them as in a state of rebellion.

The troops actually there number about 1,200, and are being increased. I also understand that offenders, past and present, will be tried by court-martial, and that in a most summary manner. Hilmi Pasha, the President of the Special Commission of Inquiry, is on his way back to Constantinople, having, it is said, resigned owing to ill-health. He has been replaced by Mustapha Pasha, General of Division, who is expected from Constantinople, and who will, it is supposed, assume the Presidency of the Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 46.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 81. Confidential.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 77 of the 8th instant respecting the alleged misdeeds of Khalil Bey, Governor of Sivas, I have received through Her

Majesty's Consul at Trebizond a letter from Dr. Jewett, Acting American Consul at Sivas, charging the Vali with wrongfully imprisoning several persons.

Firstly, he has incarcerated Karekin Hakemian, also known as Suni, an Armenian who studied medicine in America, but was not naturalized there. He was arrested on a charge of being found in possession of seditious papers, but in reality, as Dr. Jewett supposes, because he held communication with the American Consulate in spite of the Vali's prohibition.

Secondly, Karekin's brother-in-law, Dr. Jeremia, is in prison for having rendered medical service to an outlaw.

Thirdly, the Public Prosecutor wished to dismiss eight out of thirty-six political prisoners brought from Amasia, on the ground that there was no case against them, but the Vali insisted on keeping them in prison.

Khalil Bey has a bad reputation as a Governor, but Dr. Jewett's letter betrays a strong animosity against him on personal grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 47.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, being his annual Report on the affairs of that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul Longworth to Sir A. Nicolson.

Trebizond, January 31, 1894.

Sir,

I BEG to follow up my series of annual Reports on the affairs of the Trebizond Vilayet by reviewing those of 1893.

The events of the year were in the main those of the one preceding, which so effectually crippled trade and increased poverty. I am alluding principally to the Armenian troubles and to the cholera epidemic. In both those evils it is to be remarked the procedure of the Government has been such as to distract the public mind, in the one socially, and in the other commercially. Trebizond in these particulars is less to blame than Constantinople, for the local authorities have on the whole endeavoured to act with sense and discrimination. First and foremost deserving of praise is the Governor-General himself. Notwithstanding endless difficulties and hinderances Kadri Bey had succeeded in serving the people and the country well. His sympathetic nature and indefatigable assiduity, together with the lessons of experience, have won him during the year the well-merited reputation of a comparatively able Administrator. Little or nothing, however, can be attained of a durable nature without the sanction of the Porte, or rather the Palace, a preliminary which renders often our friendly counsels barren. The scope, in fact, of even an efficient Governor, is now-a-days in Turkey extremely limited, from a fear, it would seem, of his gaining undue popularity. Hampered in the initiative, he has been thus almost reduced to a mere automatic machine worked by wire from the capital, the manipulators of which are particularly remarkable for their dilatoriness, so much so that, as action is scarcely ever taken in the nick of time, the performance, as a rule, ends in failure. Centralization of power requires greater acceleration in work, a quality sadly deficient in the ordinary Oriental.

Why, then, has such an inapplicable system been adopted in Turkey? Is it because Rulers in pre-telegraph days acquired a dangerous ascendency by pleasing people through the transactions of business in a felicitous and expeditious manner? Be this as it may, great credit is due to Kadri Bey for pursuing, thus fettered, a policy of prudence and moderation towards Armenians. I firmly believe his mode of procedure alone saved the Vilayet of Trebizond from participating more boldly in that existing strife of political agitation and conflicting passions which is still so unhappily harassing the neighbouring provinces of Asia Minor.

Without appearing to air my opinions rather freely, I might perhaps add here a few remarks on these disorders. There is evidently something wrong somewhere. I will not say it is the doings of Russia, for the Armenian disaffection has a tendency of spreading into her own territory, where she is herself creating discontent by endeavouring to Slavonize the people. Neither can it be, I think, the exclusive doings of a few hot-headed and impatient Armenian and Mussulman demagogues fretting, if not clamouring, for a much speedier realization of the promised reforms. The "Hintchagist" revolutionary party, however, with its centre in Athens, is not so easily exonerated. Notwithstanding that the scattered and weakened Armenian race cannot well aspire to national independence, this very unscrupulous faction is advocating craftily arson, robbery, and murder, as the only road to freedom, with a view, it would seem, of enraging Moslems into such a massacre of the Christians as would shock the whole of Europe, and rouse the Powers to action in the interests of peace, humanity, and civilization. But such an atrocious scheme can have few promoters among a peace-loving, industrious, and intelligent people who are doubtless able enough to discriminate the political and geographical difference between Armenia and Bulgaria.

The defenders of the movement, therefore, cannot be more than a handful of zealots and felons, the ones who inspire and the others who enact, deeds of violence and lawlessness. A firm and honest Government would have no difficulty in suppressing such a movement. There would be no baneful effects were it not for the baneful conduct of a certain number of corrupt and tyrannical agents. It has indeed become now not seditious, but the cry of the oppressed against their oppressors. Moderate despotism may be tolerable enough, but the unwarrantable conduct of cruel and relentless spies and officials must render life in many instances quite unbearable, restrained as the Armenians are, indoors and out of doors, in talking, writing, walking, and travelling. The persecution is foolish in the extreme, and as wicked as it is dangerous, for it may drive the unhappy people to despair, and thus engender complications of a serious nature, that of an appeal to Russia.

Such is the risk run, and this, apparently, in order that some of the ruling classes may impress the Palace with their zeal, or increase their emoluments or enhance their own importance.

A progressive improvement in judicial probity and public security marked the year 1893 as regards the Vilayet of Trebizond. I may well mention in this connection, as honest and conscientious functionaries, the Public Prosecutor, Ghalib Bey, as well as Hamid Bey and Hassan Fehmi Effendi, the two Presidents of the local Criminal Courts. Under these men the dispensation of justice was satisfactory enough, and it would certainly have been much more satisfactory were it not for the inactivity of the Court of Cassation at Constantinople, which tempts plaintiffs and defendants with such frequency and perversity to sue for writs of error.

It is perhaps owing to this that there are instances of persons retained in gaol for three years in expiation of a three months' sentence, as there are instances of forgotten suits in appeal at the capital, involving most of them sums insufficient to allow venality.

Christians are not often now treated differently to Moslems. As a matter of fact, one hears at Trebizond more complaints from the latter than from the former, but this may be because where foreign Representatives reside, the authorities are careful to conduct themselves towards non-Moslems with due equity and justice.

There have been 191 criminal cases tried, many of which were outstanding ones of 1892.

A comparison of the two years shows 79 against 19 persons condemned to different terms of imprisonment, that is from one to five years, 5 against 5; from five to ten years, 6 against 5; from ten to fifteen years, 66 against 10; and for life, 2 against nil. Those in the local gaol at the end of each year numbered 303 against 274, of which 287 against 259 were Moslems, and 16 against 15 were Christians.

The records of murder stand at 3 against 4 in acts of brigandage, 7 against 3 in burglary, 5 against 2 in vendetta, and 1 against 4 in debauchery. The police was during the past year increased by 2 men, and the gendarmerie by 80, bringing up their respective forces to the still inadequate numbers of 36 and 1,350 all told, for service in this mountainous and maritime vilayet of more than 1,000,000 souls, and about 11,500 square miles. The losses were 1 zaptieh against 2 killed, and 3 against 2 wounded; while those rewarded figure as 12 against 18.

In military command there has been the transfer in spring from Samsoon to Trebizond of the Ferik, or General of Division, who himself, under the orders of the Mushir, or Field Marshal at Erzinghian, has a Liva, or Major-General at Rizeh, as well as one stationed at Samsoon.

The troops conducted themselves in an exemplary manner towards the public at large, while the relations between the civil and military authorities were on the whole more cordial. It is to be regretted, however, that by orders or with the sanction of the Grand Vizier, Djevad Pasha, the handsome building of the Idadieh, or Civil School, should have been temporarily, if not permanently, appropriated for recruits, to the dispersion of pupils and masters, who are, in consequence, spending their time still in idleness.

Discord among Christians was as usual rife. The Protestants, if anything, were more helpless; the Greek partisans of the former Archbishop went to the extent of removing their children, some 300 in number, from their own schools to those of the French Frères and Sœurs; while the Gregorians contested, though unsuccessfully, the right of the Armenian Catholics to being represented apart at the Courts of Justice by members of their own community. As for the Mahommedans they have gained as converts during the year only three men and two women, which is about the same rate of progression in proselytism attained at Liverpool through the exertions of the Englishman, Mr. Quillinan. With the acquisition of knowledge I further understand Moslem theologians are beginning to find certain questions rather awkward to answer; such, for instance, How is a devout Mussulman to get through his five prescribed prayers, or his Ramazan fast, in the northern latitudes where sunrise and sunset are so rapid in succession?

The Custom-house officials made some very foolish mistakes during the year, among which may be mentioned their confiscating toy swords of tin as prohibited weapons of war. The censorship made itself almost equally ridiculous. The seizure of treatises on skull operations for insanity may be significant enough, but the destruction of valuable wall maps by cutting out, with all neatness, the letters composing the word Armenia, and then allowing them to pass as rendered thus innoxious, displays simply, if there be no complicity, a lack of acuteness perfectly incredible.

Extreme want is not always conducive to crime and disorder. This has been sufficiently proved last year, for in the month of October some 20,000 souls deserted their famine-stricken homes in the districts of Kelkit, Sheïran, and Baïburt, and swarmed down to Trebizond in quest of what weeds and offal they could find to pacify hunger. In the midst of their appalling hardships the poor emaciated wretches were remarkably inoffensive and law-abiding. Those spared by cholera and starvation are now quartered among the neighbouring villagers, who deserve some praise for the hospitality they are so generously extending to their unfortunate countrymen.

I will not lengthen out the Report with information already contained in previous despatches, but will end by observing that quarantine in these parts brought more misery in its train than cholera, and that, should it be again imposed, there is every reason to fear that complete ruin and abject poverty will be the inevitable consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 48.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 14, 1894.*

THE Russian Ambassador, who is going away to-morrow for some weeks, called to-day to take leave.

In the course of conversation he spoke of the Armenian question as a serious one. It was, he said, of importance to Russia on account of the number of Armenians who were subjects of the Emperor. The movement might be divided into two parts: the one aimed at reform, the other at revolution; with the latter, in which many Nihilists were concerned, the Russian Government could have no sympathy; but in cases of misgovernment which had been brought to his knowledge by the Consuls

under his jurisdiction, he had occasionally made representations to the Porte, by communicating to them the statements of fact which had been transmitted to him.

On one occasion it had been rumoured that he had addressed a formal note on the Armenian question to the Porte, but this was not the case. I said that we had also made many unofficial representations on the question, that we had found it difficult, if not impossible, to induce the Porte to introduce reforms into Asiatic Turkey; and that, in our opinion, the most important point was to secure the nomination of good Governors. M. de Nelidow agreed in this view, and said that he thought it would be possible to obtain satisfactory results in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 49.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 63. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 28, 1894.*
Sir,

THE inclosed documents, which consist of statements from various religious Societies with reference to Armenian proceedings, were handed to me this afternoon by the Turkish Ambassador.

I observed that I fully appreciated their importance, and informed his Excellency that I would in the first place have them printed for circulation to the Cabinet, and that afterwards they should form part of any Blue Book issued.

Rustem Pasha also called my attention to the fact that Mme. Thomasian and others were organizing a private Commission of Inquiry to proceed to Asia Minor and investigate the wrongs of Armenia, for which purpose 200*l.* or thereabouts had been already collected, chiefly in Edinburgh. Though, his Excellency said, the Turkish Government could easily prevent their proceedings when they arrived on the spot, he did not wish to have any trouble with Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and had therefore spoken to me privately.

Before giving any reply, I said I should wish to consider the matter and to see whether there were any precedents for private Commissions of this kind.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Evangelical Alliance to Rustem Pasha.

7, Adam Street, Strand, London, February 20, 1894.
Sir,

AS you were good enough to invite me to write to your Excellency upon the subject we discussed last week, I have now the pleasure to state in a sentence or two the communication I made to your Excellency verbally.

1. The Evangelical Alliance totally disapproves of the present agitation carried by M. Thomasian and other Armenians.

It is in direct opposition to the earnestly expressed wish of our Council that M. Thomasian is taking his present course of Armenian agitation.

2. The Evangelical Alliance carefully avoids all interference in political affairs, and never touches any case of persecution except on the ground that it is a case of *religious* persecution, that is to say, the person is persecuted on account of his Christianity. We were so fully assured by our correspondents upon the spot that MM. Thomasian and Kayayan were absolutely innocent of the charges of sedition brought against them last year, that we took up their cause and pleaded strongly with our own Government for the release of these two men, and we were very grateful for the clemency shown by the Sultan in their case.

3. The Evangelical Alliance has no missionaries either in Armenia or elsewhere. It is an organization composed of individual members of all Evangelical Churches, and in all parts of the world. Our justification in pleading, as we have done on various occasions, with Sovereigns and Governments, in favour of religious liberty, is that we

are not only interested in the securing of liberty for every man to worship God according to his conscience, but also that ours is the only organized body for expressing the sympathy and the mind of the Christian Churches of all denominations and of various countries.

We gladly recognize the great progress which has been made by Turkey during the last thirty or forty years in the matter of religious freedom, and we feel that with the Hatti-Houmayoum, and the other Firmans of the Sultan giving religious liberty to his subjects, we have good reason to be satisfied. In almost every case (and there have been many such during the past thirty years) where we have appealed directly or indirectly to the Turkish Government on behalf of Protestant Christians in the Turkish Empire, the difficulties have been created by local officials, and not by the central Government. We are thankful that, in most instances, the redress we have sought has been granted at Constantinople.

But we feel that, at the present time there is great danger that the agitation for social and political reforms in Armenia may involve many Christians, perhaps unjustly, in difficulty and peril. At the same time, the Evangelical Alliance will not knowingly plead on behalf of any case where the individual has been mixed up with seditious movements.

I trust that your Excellency will accept this statement, together with the verbal explanations I gave, as an assurance of the absolute desire of our Council to avoid all possible cause of irritation on the part of the Government of your august Sovereign. It is through the Sultan's Government in Constantinople alone that we can look for the protection of the Protestant Christians of Turkey, in whom we are interested; and we feel that, on every ground, it is desirable that our position should not be compromised by any suspicion on your Excellency's part that we give even a shadow of approval to disloyal agitation. Indeed, I may say that, in every case of alleged religious persecution with which we have had to deal we invariably take two courses: one is to ascertain the actual facts from trustworthy agents on the spot (and we have these in all parts of the world), the next is to appeal privately to the particular Government for redress. We always avoid the publication of details, except in the last resort.

Thanking your Excellency very heartily for the time which you gave to this matter when I had the honour of an interview with you last week, I remain, &c.

(Signed) A. J. ARNOLD, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Extract from the "Presbyterian" of February 23, 1894.

ARMENIA AND THE ARMENIANS.

(By Correspondent.)

THE article of "Fairplay" so carefully avoids the essential points in my statements that a reply is hardly needful. Allow me, however, to remind your readers of what I did say.

In the articles you kindly admitted to your columns it was held: That the recent Armenian trouble was caused by an outbreak of violence by the Armenian revolutionary party; that this led to bloody conflicts between the Armenian conspirators and the Turkish soldiery, involving serious loss of life on both sides; that when the incipient insurrection was suppressed, there followed the inevitable arrest and punishment, with varying degrees of severity, of many persons more or less implicated; and that in dealing thus with certain Armenians the Turkish Government was not actuated by any special hate of either Christians or Armenians, but only of insurrectionists, and this being so, that that Government was justified in its action. In all this I referred exclusively to the incidents which have lately brought Armenia so much before our British public.

In support of my statements, I quoted letters from missionaries living and labouring in the very districts in which the fighting took place, notably Marsovan itself, and who spoke in unsparing terms of the wickedness of the movement. I also quoted the action of the American Board at its late annual meeting.

As further evidence, I beg to inclose an article from the Boston "Congregationalist," giving a horrible revelation of the plans and motives of our Armenian patriots. In confirmation of these plans I find in the "Anglo-Armenian Gazette" for this month—a journal published in London, an appeal from the "Armenian Patriotic League," containing the following:—

"There will be many things wanted for the deliverance of our mother country. We will want time and money, and we will want blood. . . . . To accomplish our work, many will have to endanger their lives, be persecuted and fall victims, whether it be those who wield the sword or work with the pen."

In view of such, one is compelled to ask: Has this Armenian trouble been, after all, a persecution on religious grounds, of law-abiding, God-fearing men, or has it been a civil and military prosecution of reckless, misguided men for high treason and murder?

"Fairplay" calls his letter "The other side"—then let him produce evidence to disprove the above statements of credible men.

The Rev. Dr. Hamlin, who was the founder and first President of Robert College, Constantinople, has written the following letter to the "Congregationalist" of Boston, United States of America:—

"An Armenian 'revolutionary party' is causing great evil and suffering to the missionary work and to the whole Christian population of certain parts of the Turkish Empire. It is a secret organization, and is managed with a skill in deceit which is known only in the East.

"In a widely-distributed pamphlet the following announcement is made at the close:—

"'*Huntchagist Revolutionary Party.*

"'This is the only Armenian party which is leading on the revolutionary movement in Armenia. Its centre is Athens, and it has branches in every village and city in Armenia, also in the Colonies. Nishan Garabedian, one of the founders of the party, is in America, and those desiring to get further information may communicate with him, addressing Nishan Garabedian, No. 15, Fountain Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, or with the centre, M. Benlard, Poste Restante, Athens, Greece.'

"A very intelligent Armenian gentleman, who speaks fluently and correctly English as well as Armenian, and is an eloquent defender of the revolution, assured me that they have the strongest hopes of preparing the way for Russia's entrance to Asia Minor to take possession. In answer to the question how, he replied: 'These Huntchagist bands, organized all over the Empire, will watch their opportunities to kill Turks and Kurds, set fire to their villages, and then make their escape into the mountains. The enraged Moslems will then rise and fall upon the defenceless Armenians, and slaughter them with such barbarities that Russia will enter in the name of humanity and Christian civilization and take possession.' When I denounced the scheme as atrocious and infernal beyond anything ever known, he calmly replied: 'It appears so to you, no doubt, but we Armenians are determined to be free. Europe listened to the Bulgarian horrors and made Bulgaria free. She will listen to our cry when it goes up in the shrieks and blood of millions of women and children.' I urged in vain that this scheme will make the very name of Armenia hateful among all civilized people. He replied: 'We are desperate; we shall do it.' 'But your people do not want Russian protection. They prefer Turkey, bad as she is. There are hundreds of miles of contermimous territory into which emigration is easy at all times. It has been so for all the centuries of the Moslem rule. If your people preferred the Russian Government there would not be now an Armenian family in Turkey.' 'Yes,' he replied, 'and for such stupidity they will have to suffer.' I have had conversations with others who avow the same things, but no one acknowledges that he is a member of the party. Falsehood is, of course, justifiable where murder and arson are.

"In Turkey the party aims to excite the Turks against Protestant missionaries and against Protestant Armenians. All the troubles at Marsovan originated in their movements. They are cunning, unprincipled, and cruel. They terrorize their own people by demanding contributions of money under threats of assassination—a threat which has often been put in execution.

"I have made the mildest possible disclosure of only a few of the abominations of this Huntchagist revolutionary party. It is of Russian origin. Russian gold and craft govern it. Let all missionaries, home and foreign, denounce it. Let all Protestant Armenians everywhere boldly denounce it. It is trying to enter every Sunday-school and deceive and pervert the innocent and ignorant into supporters of this craft. We must therefore be careful that in befriending Armenians we do nothing that can be construed into an approval of this movement, which all should abhor. While yet we recognize the probability that some Armenians in this country, ignorant of the real object and cruel designs of the Huntchagists, are led by their patriotism to join with them, and while we sympathize with the sufferings of the Armenians at home, we must stand aloof from any such desperate attempts which contemplate the destruction of Protestant Missions, churches, schools, and Bible work, involving all in a common ruin that is diligently and craftily sought. Let all home and foreign missionaries beware of any alliance with or countenance of the Huntchagists.

(Signed) "CYRUS HAMLIN.

"*Lexington, December* 23."

Massachusetts Home Missionary Society,
Boston, Massachusetts.

In view of the revolutionary and incendiary designs of the Huntchagist revolutionary party among the Armenians, the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society enjoins upon all those it befriends to give no countenance or support to that party.

(Signed) CHARLES B. RICE,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

(Signed) JOSHUA COIT, *Secretary.*

("Congregationalist," Boston, United States, America.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Extract from the "Methodist Recorder" of February 22, 1894.

RELIGION OR SEDITION?

An Interview on the Armenian Question.

NOT many weeks ago a gentleman obtained permission to address the Methodist Council of London on the subject of the persecution of Christians in Armenia. As he was himself an Armenian and had suffered at the hands of the Turkish Government, his statements were listened to with respect and sympathy. Since that time the speaker (M. Thoumaian) has addressed several religious Bodies in different parts of the country on the same subject with the avowed object of arousing the general sympathy of evangelical Great Britain. He has, in fact, been preaching with a good deal of vigour, and to some purpose apparently, a crusade against the Turk. Knowing something of the complex nature of the Armenian question, and fearing that M. Thoumaian's bitter denunciation of the Turk would not assist those who are seeking to soften the heart of the Sultan towards the Christians who yet live under his rule, a representative of the "Methodist Recorder" has obtained the views of a gentleman who is even better qualified to discuss this matter than M. Thoumaian. There is probably no one in England who, having a thorough knowledge of the Armenian question, can look at it in a more impartial light than the Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, Mr. A. J. Arnold. For more years perhaps than M. Thoumaian can remember the Alliance has been fighting boldly, and yet with the quiet skill of the most veteran diplomat, for the cause of religious liberty in Turkey. Its sources of

information are widespread and manifold, and it is in a position to secure the attention of the highest Government officials both in England and in Turkey. Indeed, to it in a very great measure, though perhaps he hardly realizes it, M. Thoumaian owes the fact that he is to-day in the enjoyment of life and liberty.

Our representative found Mr. Arnold in the offices of the Alliance, 7, Adam Street, Strand, and was permitted to put the following questions:—

In the first place, Mr. Arnold, is it true that there are hundreds of Armenians in prison at this moment for the sake of religion alone?

I am glad you ask me that question first. It enables me to brand at once as false and ridiculous a statement which has been circulated lately to the effect that there are 2,000 Armenian Christians in prison for righteousness' sake, that is to say, for no other reason than that they are Christians. As a matter of fact, there are only a few score of "Armenian Christians" in prison at the present time on any charge whatever, and while there may be, and I think are, some among these who are guiltless of the charge on which they have been arrested, I fear that it is only the few who are untouched with sedition. High Turkish officials will tell you that there is not a single man in prison in Armenia because he is a Christian, and to a certain extent that is true. The charge on which all have been arrested is that of sedition.

Are we to understand that there is no religious persecution at present in Armenia?

There is always more or less religious intolerance of a petty kind throughout the Turkish Empire. In Armenia the difficulty is to separate social and political affairs from religious. There is undoubtedly a strong seditious movement in Armenia against Turkish authority. The leaders are nominal Christians. When these would-be rebellious subjects of the Sultan are arrested, is it the duty of the Evangelical Alliance, or any body of Christians, to step in and demand their release on religious grounds? I think you will agree that it is not. Our duty is to find out what proportion of the alleged malcontents have been included in the drag-net because they have incurred the wrath of local officials simply by their religious zeal, and by proving that they are innocent secure their freedom. It is absolutely necessary that we should keep a broad dividing line between the political and the religious, otherwise we can do nothing for the liberty of the Gospel in any part of the Turkish Empire.

Then persecution in Armenia now consists in ranking religious with political offenders, and endeavouring to punish both on the single plea of sedition?

That is putting the case in a broad way. However much we may accuse the Turks of intolerance, we must gladly acknowledge a vast improvement in the last thirty years. While there is a certain amount of persecution, there is also liberty. Moreover, the persecution does not emanate from the central authorities, but from local officials. We can get redress almost invariably when we appeal to the Turkish Government against the acts of its minor officials.

What is this seditious movement which the Turkish Government is so anxious to quell that it arrests Armenians by the score?

Nothing less than an endeavour on the part of certain Armenian agitators to hand Armenia over to Russia. They imagine, very foolishly, that by so doing they will gain a larger amount of freedom and independence. I would like to quote in this connection a letter the Alliance has recently received from a correspondent who has lived for forty years in Turkey, and knows the whole situation. He writes:—

"So far as I can see, we must stop publishing appeals against Turkish injustice until this silly and criminal Armenian agitation is quelled. To found an Armenia in Turkey is what no sane man who knows the facts would wish, and no just man, looking at the masses of people who have the same right as the Armenians to live, would approve. Until the danger of holstering up the idea of forming such an Armenia is past, we must suffer and wait for the redress of Turkish injustice."

If it were even compatible with the objects for which the Alliance exists, it would still be foolish to identify ourselves with an agitation which is denounced by impartial and well-informed observers as "silly and criminal." And yet that is what those people would wish us to do who accept these statements about the imprisonment of "2,000 Armenians," and cry out for their release on the grounds that they are "Christians." I do not wish to say too much about the political situation in Armenia, because I would rather emphasise the fact that it is entirely out of our

province, but I would like to point out, and especially to the Heads of the Armenian colony in London, that government by Russia does not mean liberty either of person or religion. I should like any Armenians who think they could get better justice from Russia to go and live there for a year or two. Remember that while there are a few score of Armenians in prison for political or religious reasons, there are 3,250 Russian Stundists now in prison or exile, and not a Governor or official in Russia claims that the Stundists are mixed up with political movements. The Armenians who are agitating in London seem to think that they would get religious liberty by allowing Russia to enter Turkey. They should know that Russia's present-day policy is to "Russify" everything within its jurisdiction, and bring all its subjects into the Orthodox Church. I am not sure that they are not already aware of it, for some of those who are in the forefront of the agitation at this moment have disclosed to friends of the Alliance that if Russia became possessed of Armenia they would avoid imprisonment by consenting to join the Orthodox Church. So much for their Evangelical faith! And I may add that the same men who have made this declaration say that in all things they are Armenians first and Christians afterwards!

You consider, Mr. Arnold, that the Evangelical Alliance is the best intermediary between the Christian people of England and the Turkish Government, when it is thought desirable to press the claims of religious liberty?

I have no doubt on that question at all. For nearly forty years the Council of the Evangelical Alliance has been dealing with religious liberty in Turkey. Again and again we have secured distinct advantages, and redress for grievances without number. The Turkish Government recognizes in the Alliance a body which acts from the purest religious motives, without a suspicion of political animus, and listens to us accordingly. As to our sources of information, we have correspondents all over Turkey, many, but not all, of whom are missionaries. Then, in Constantinople, we have a strong inter-denominational and inter-national Committee, which is composed of influential men, and has access to the highest officials. Amongst other redress that we have secured during the past two years I may refer to the Order issued by the Turkish Government practically closing all Protestant places of worship unless a special permit had been obtained. After representations had been made to the British, American, and Turkish Governments, the Order was withdrawn. There is a great deal that the Alliance is able to accomplish which can never be referred to in print, because its publication would prevent a second success in the same direction. When the difficulties arose in Marsovan in the early part of last year, the Alliance received information of the trouble from its Constantinople Committee and from its correspondent at Marsovan, and long before the public of Great Britain were aware of the situation, the Alliance was pleading the cause of MM. Thoumaïan and Kayayan both with the English and the Turkish Governments. We felt safe in our pleading, because we were assured by our correspondents in Turkey that these two men were absolutely innocent of the charges of sedition brought against them.

Have they sustained the character you gave them since their release?

M. Kayayan certainly has; he is quietly studying at Edinburgh. I wish I could say as much for M. Thoumaïan. However free from political intrigue he may have been at the time of his arrest, he seems lately to be showing a disposition to throw in his lot with the pro-Russian party, joining the very agitators who are making it so hard for us to plead on behalf of those who are persecuted in Turkey, as he was, for the sake of religion alone. As every statement that is made by Thoumaïan and printed, reaches, sooner or later, the Turkish officials in London, and finally the authorities at Constantinople, it is easy to see how much harm his agitation against Turkish rule will do those whom we desire to help. Even now British and Turkish officials are saying to our Committee, "Is this the man that you said was free from sedition?"

Is it possible to hope that the day will come when there will be no question regarding the freedom of religion in Turkey?

That is the end towards which we are looking. Progress is naturally slow, and there has certainly been a reactionary movement of late due to this unfortunate political agitation. Our great hope lies in the fact that the Turkish Government still yields to reasonable representation from outside. This tendency towards toleration would become more pronounced if the Great Powers would impress upon Turkey the fact that to preserve itself from internal rupture it should avoid all charges of religious persecution. Those who are agitating for the division of Turkey are shrewd enough to make use of every persecution of Christians to influence Protestant Great Britain against her. Turkish misgovernment is a fact, and enlightened officials of the

Sultan's domain are aware that there is vast room for improvement, but the change can only be brought about gradually, and certainly not by an agitation such as the Armenians are now carrying on in Great Britain and America. Again I would say that such agitation can only lead to the barring of the prison doors to any who are still imprisoned for the sake of their religion alone.

No. 50.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 93.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 25, 1894.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 58 of the 30th January, and his telegrams Nos. 14 and 15 of the 5th and 8th February, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the recent disturbances at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Angora, February 9, 1894.

I HAD the honour to inform you by telegram yesterday that that Memdouh Bey, Governor-General of this Vilayet, had left for Yuzgat under instructions from his Government. The General of Division in command of the Redifs at Angora, Ali Riza Pasha, has been appointed Acting Governor-General in his place, instead of the Defterdar, as is usual in such cases. This departure from the general rule is due to the present state of affairs, which is looked upon by the Government as serious enough to necessitate a military officer of high rank being placed at the head of local affairs in order to assist the Governor-General and the Special Commissioner at Yuzgat in case of need.

Mustapha Pasha, General of Division, appointed to replace Hilmi Pasha as Chief Commissioner at Yuzgat, arrived here in the night of the 7th instant, and left early yesterday morning. He has hitherto occupied a post at the War Office, having had, I understand, the direction of the affairs of the Fourth Army Corps. With him arrived eighty cavalrymen, who were at once dispatched to Yuzgat by different routes.

Béha Bey, the recently-appointed Governor of Yuzgat, has resigned, and has been at temporarily replaced by the Mektoubji (Chief of the Correspondence Department) Angora.

Arif Bey, the dismissed "Procureur-Général," has arrived here, but not so his successor from Costambol.

The precedents of Memdouh Bey and his direction of the affairs at Sivas are well known to you, and on the whole I do not think that the Government are to be congratulated on their choice of representatives at Yuzgat. Mustapha Pasha is little known here, but is not held to be of much account. The Acting Governor-General is an ignorant and inexperienced officer, the Acting Mutessarif a nonentity, and the judicial authorities, in whose hands lie the task of trying the numerous prisoners already arrested, are far from possessing the necessary qualifications. The Chief of the Gendarmerie and his principal assistants are now men from Constantinople, with little or no local experience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Angora, February 12, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a document, partly letter and partly Petition, which I have received from the Armenian Protestant and Gregorian Councils of Yuzgat, and accepted by me "à titre d'information."

I have sent it in full because I think the contents are of sufficient interest, showing as they do the actual state of affairs on the eve of the last troubles that took place on the 1st instant.

Several of the incidents alluded to have already been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy, and need no further remarks of mine. I may, however, add that the Vali informed me at the time of the search for arms made in the Gregorian church, with the permission and assistance, he said, of the Council, and he expressed his satisfaction at no arms being found there as was suspected.

The complaints about the one-sided action of the Commission of Inquiry are, I am afraid, justified, and I once more took upon myself to advise the Vali, when he was leaving for Yuzgat last week, to try and instil a more impartial spirit among his subordinates and the Judicial authorities.

I left with him a list of Turks who are accused of being the chief instigators of and participators in the late conflicts, and Memdouh Bey promised to make inquiries, and to deal severely with them if really guilty.

The avowal in paragraph 18, to the effect that there is a general movement among the Armenians, is worthy of being noted.

The document, as a whole, can be taken as a sufficiently accurate description of the state of feeling existing at Yuzgat, and it is not to be wondered at that the armed resistance to a Police Commissary led to further conflicts between the Christians and Moslems, as reported in my despatch of the 5th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Petition from Protestant Armenians and Gregorians of Yuzgat.

(Translation.)

OWING to the indolence and carelessness of the Commission of Inquiry, our local authorities are taking courage, and are daily increasing their old enmity and prejudice against the Armenians.

We have already stated this affair to you, but now we shall do it in a more detailed manner.

1. Searching the church.

The police and gendarmes, since the arrival of the Commission (of Inquiry), have been continually besieging our church day and night. The authorities and the Mussulman population have got it into their heads that arms are stored there. The siege (of the church) has been more strictly carried out within the last few days, as they were afraid that efforts were being made to convey the arms alleged to be there to some other place. The church has been named the depôt.

In order to search for them, the Procureur-Général, with the Chief of Gendarmerie and several gendarmes, entered the church, and looked everywhere in a ruthless manner, damaging several parts of the church. They found nothing, and were disappointed and ashamed. They also searched the schools and the church-house. The fact that false informers and accusers in this case are left unpunished is an example of the way justice is administered by the Government towards our nation.

2. Wounding and savagely assaulting an Armenian girl and a young bride at Bebek.

This case was brought before the Commission of Inquiry. Just when the crime was about to be proved, the parties were told to wait a few days, at the end of which they were told to go to Maden to have the matter settled there.

3. The Commission of Inquiry has been convinced of the crimes perpetrated at Kara-Yacoub and Kara-Tchair, but the perpetrators have been left unpunished. We cannot understand their reason.

4. The local authorities made it their business to saddle the Armenians with every crime or offence committed in the district.

Efforts are made to procure evidence from Mussulmans, who have not even been near the church, to show that everything that took place there was the work of Armenians.

5. Several Armenians, who have themselves been injured, or have had relatives wounded or killed during the recent conflicts (the 12th December), have addressed Petitions to the Commandant Pasha, soliciting an investigation and confirmation of their cases; the matter was referred to the Municipality physicians, who duly ascertained and confirmed the facts, but when the Petitions, with the medical reports annexed, came before the authorities, they were relegated to the waste-paper basket.

6. This unaccountable indifference and policy of the Commission of Inquiry, and the vindictive disposition of the Court, emboldened and encouraged the Mussulman population, which began annoying and molesting innocent and honest people. They obtained coffee and sugar from tradesmen, butter, honey, and rice from grocers, cloth from merchants, and, alleging that they had paid for these things, they ran off. If any one dared to dispute with them, they made all sorts of false accusations against the shop-keepers. Some tailors and butchers have actually been victims of these accusations, and have been thrown into prison. A bootmaker promised to give them a pair of boots in order to escape from their accusations, but another person of the same name was accused in his stead.

7. The Government is left in the hands of people who lend a ready ear to every false accusation, and who consider vengeance as justice.

8. The detachment of troops specially brought to protect the town are assaulting the women, and striking them with the stocks of their guns, exclaiming, "See how the infidel woman is afraid." They also desecrate the churchyards and other places, and whenever any complaint is made about their misdeeds we are told to name the perpetrators. As for accusing a soldier, this is a most dangerous thing, as the informer is cast into prison without trial, or is otherwise molested for daring to attach dishonour to the army.

9. In order to organize attacks and prepare accusations, the Mussulman population assembles in groups in private houses and cafés, and, although efforts are made by the Commandant Pasha to prevent these gatherings, the indifference, indolence, and indulgence of the Judicial authorities render his efforts ineffective.

10. Some accusers dragged an old Armenian merchant before the Court, and accused him of having attacked a Mussulman, and they procured six false witnesses. In the Court the Mussulmans cried out, addressing the Judge, Osman Effendi, "If the Government is unable to look into these matters, we shall administer the law in the way we know." The Judge did not dare to make the slightest remark. The same scenes take place daily before the Commission of Inquiry also, and whenever Petitions are addressed to them they refer the matter to the Law Courts, though they are themselves competent and responsible, and in this way the people's rights are being trodden on.

11. The Indjirli prisoners are, in obedience to the orders of the Law Courts, savagely tortured. Complaints have been addressed by their relations, supported by the National Councils, to the Commission of Inquiry, but have been disregarded, and not taken into consideration, after the manner and example of the Law Courts.

12. Twenty-eight prisoners from Indjirli and Magaraglou, unjustly arrested, have been tortured, at the instigation of authorities, by their fellow-prisoners (Mussulman), apparently in order to force them to make confessions. This fact has been proved, but the perpetrators are left unpunished.

13. There are others who, dreading the tortures which they might be subjected to in the prisons or at the trials, are wandering about in the country. The parents and relatives of these are imprisoned, we know not why.

14. For the last twelve months the wife of Thoumaian Artin, who is wanted, is reported as being confined in prison at Amassia, and subjected to tortures in order to be compelled to divulge the whereabouts of her husband.

15. Similarly, the young man who last year had stood bail for our countryman Toshikian Mikran, who has since been tried and released as not guilty, is still lying in prison.

16. In our former Petition to you we exposed the many irregularities and unlawful acts of which our authorities were guilty; the contents have been confirmed both by Christians and Mussulmans. In spite of this fact we are told by the Commission of Inquiry that assaulting girls and women is not an important or serious matter, that

oribing, though unlawful, is a custom, that if a few malefactors have killed a few Turks, and the latter have killed an Armenian and wounded others, it is not a sufficiently serious affair to make so much fuss about; when the perpetrators are found they can be punished. Such language is really incomprehensible, and rightly deserves our astonishment. Since such deeds as we have exposed and proved are considered by the Commission as small matters, there must be some other irregularity known and familiar to them compared to which the acts complained of are of no importance. It may be that both the Commission of Inquiry and the local authorities are perhaps trying to induce and prevail upon some simple Christians to address a telegram to the Sovereign declaring that they have no cause of complaint, and that all that is happening is due to the plans and machinations got up by a few agitators, and thus they hope to deceive the Sovereign and the civilized world. We are, however, perfectly convinced that our complaints are real and justified, and if listened to will be conducive to the happiness and better government of our country, therefore we will never cease complaining and petitioning and soliciting compassion.

17. Trusting first to God Almighty, and then to the noble British Government, the protector of the rights of oppressed people, we solicit your help.

18. So far as we can understand the following is the policy adopted by the Commission of Inquiry:—

(1.) Ignoring the fact that all the Armenian population of the Empire is dissatisfied with the Government, they try to give a local aspect to the matter, as though the complaint was confined to Yuzgat only, and that the matter merely consisted of an encounter between some lawless Mussulmans and Armenians, whereas the movement is general and unanimously got up by the Armenians. The authorities are in fact endeavouring to cover with the mask of "particularity" what is "general," and by throwing a few ashes on a bad smell they hope to stifle the matter.

(2.) They are affording an undeniable proof of their inveterate enmity to Christians by the fact that they are listening to Mussulmans who have been proved to be criminals, whilst on the other hand they give no consideration to our complaints.

(3.) So far as we can see, the oppression, assaults, and exactions of bribes complained of in our Petitions have not yet been the subject of any inquiry. On the contrary, the oppression is increasing, the prisons are being filled with Armenians of all conditions, because directly an accusation is made against any of us the Mussulman's word is implicitly believed. The result is that the dough in every Armenian house is being mixed with tears.

Instead of asking us what we want, they punish and oppress us merely for the fact that we do want something, and they thus draw upon us the anger of the Sovereign.

We are nearly annihilated.

19. Now, in the name of Him whom you and we believe to be the Son of God, inform your powerful Government (we are writing with tears of blood, being in a pitiful plight) that a nation whose rights are lost, who has no one else to whom she can explain her miserable condition, and who, a thousand miles away, is being crushed under the tyranny and oppression of her rulers.

We, the helpless Armenian nation, whose honour is being attacked every day by savage police, "kiss the hem of their (the British Government) garments," and humbly solicit their assistance in the name of the Almighty, and of His Son our Saviour, in whom we trust, and we also believe that He will see our tears, and send us a deliverer, He will apply a remedy to our broken hearts, and do away with him who dares to frustrate His designs.

Yuzgat, January 19 (31), 1894.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, February 16, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a rough tracing showing the places in this vilayet affected by the Armenian movement of last year (underlined with red) and also those at which occurrences have taken place since my arrival at this port in October last, and have been referred to in my official despatches or private letters addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy. These are underlined with blue.

It will be seen at a glance that, as far as this vilayet is concerned, Cæsarea was the centre last winter, and that this time it has been Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 51.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 94.) *Constantinople, February* 25, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that Mr. Consul Cumberbatch recently inquired of me whether he should proceed to Yuzgat to watch the trials which are expected shortly to take place before the Special Commission now holding its sittings in that town. It appeared to me that at this moment it would be more prudent that Mr. Cumberbatch should abstain from taking part in the proceedings, as his presence might be misinterpreted both by the Moslems and the Armenians. I have consequently informed him that it is not necessary for him to make the proposed journey.

In a private letter which has been received from Mr. Cumberbatch he mentions that the Vali and the new Commissioners, on their arrival at Yuzgat, released a number prisoners, and issued a reassuring Proclamation. The Vali has also sent Circulars to the local authorities to prevent ill-treatment of the Christians by the police or Moslem population. Mr. Cumberbatch, however, anticipates that very severe measures will be meted out to the chief prisoners who are now awaiting their trial.

Mr. Cumberbatch further alludes to the circumstance, which has been also noted from other Consulates, that the feeling of race hatred has been developed to an extent which it will take time effectually to modify, and in the meantime the Christian will naturally be the greater sufferer in the struggle.

He points out that throughout the recent Armenian movement the Catholic Armenians have carefully abstained from participating in it, and adds that, in the opinion of Ottoman officials, the Gregorians are encouraged in their sedition by the belief that Russia will take up their cause, as she did that of the Serbs and Bulgarians, while the Protestant Armenians have, they consider, been worked upon by the American Missions, which are regarded as hotbeds of revolution. Mr. Cumberbatch adds that the suspicion which is readily attached to any one who has been connected with these institutions shows in what light the Government views the educational establishments of the American missionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 52.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 95.) *Pera, February* 21, 1894.

My Lord,

THE Concessions for the new lines of railway now being constructed in this country by foreign capitalists contain, as your Lordship is aware, heavy guarantees of interest to be paid by the Turkish Government.

The serious burden cast upon the State by the engagements it has thus undertaken is now attracting considerable attention here, and the universal opinion of disinterested persons seems to be opposed to any further extension of these liabilities. They already amount to an annual sum of not much less than a million sterling, which will increase as further expenditure is incurred in completing the lines now under construction.

It is calculated that at least ten years must elapse before the improvement to the revenues, which the railways are expected to produce, will meet the charge, and meanwhile the Railway Companies, being sure of a return for their outlay, have no inducement to make exertions for working the lines to the best advantage.

I inclose an interesting Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Block on this question,

together with an article which appeared a few days ago on the same topic in the "Levant Herald."

This article was at first prohibited by the censorship, but subsequently was allowed to appear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Memorandum by Mr. Block respecting Railway Guarantees.

(Confidential.)

SOME weeks ago Micail Pasha Portocal, Minister of the Civil List, informed me confidentially that the present system of railway guarantees was most pernicious, and would inevitably, at no distant date, bring very serious financial trouble on the Ottoman Government. He said he had endeavoured in vain to persuade the Sultan of the mistake he was committing in thus pledging a large part of the revenue to pay interest on foreign capital invested in railway enterprise. The Public Debt already absorbs some £ T. 2,552,000 per annum; the Russian war indemnity absorbs £ T. 450,000 per annum; and the Government would now be responsible for some £ T. 2,000,000 when all the railways are constructed. This sum would be considerably reduced by the profits of the railways, but it would take years to free the Government from their liability in this respect. His Excellency seemed to think that the railways would never cease to be a drain on the Government revenues. "Nous sommes déjà," said his Excellency, "très gênés pour l'argent, et l'année prochaine nous le serons davantage." If there was famine, or cholera, or bad crops, or trouble, the financial outlook was not a bright one.

Information from some of our Consuls bears out these observations, and his Excellency's forebodings are already beginning to be realized, and the shoe is beginning to pinch with regard to the railway guarantees.

The German Anatolian Railway Company is, I am told, claiming already some 4,000,000 fr. from the Government in respect of the guarantee, and I learn that the tithes assigned for the purpose, and collected by the Public Debt Administration, do not suffice to meet the deficit. The best kilometric returns for this year are some 8,000 fr.; thus 7,000 fr., at least, per kilometre has to be provided out of the tithes.

Mr. Caillard, at the time of the Concessions being granted, quite rightly objected to the Debt Administration being saddled with any responsibility with regard to the guarantee, but in his Report of September 1893 he endeavours to show that by the construction of railways the amount of land under cultivation will increase, and that there will be an increase in the value of the tithe from year to year. Such has hitherto proved to be the case, but in face of the want of population it is a question how far this source of revenue is elastic. Again, the sections completed (say 700 kilom.) are as profitable as any that may be constructed later on, and the railway returns will not increase for some time to come by the construction of further extensions, unless, perhaps, by the construction of the Konieh section; this even is doubtful, as if the Aïdin Railway Company ever obtains its extension to join the German line at Tchai or Karahissar (and they are striving to that end), or if the Cassaba line extends to Karahissar, a great part of the traffic will flow to the natural outlet, viz., Smyrna, rather than to Constantinople. The Aïdin Railway Company is within 70 kilom. of the proposed German line, and has already, for some years past, been drawing on the Province of Konieh for its traffic, and is fairly confident of retaining it; they go so far as to maintain that, even without their junction, they will hold their own, and, in any case, considerably reduce the profits of the German line. The Manager of the Aïdin Railway has expressed his determination to do so, even at the risk of a war of rates. Further, a great trunk line in Turkey cannot succeed if extended too fast; heavy goods of low values will not bear the expense of a long railway transit, and, whilst a Smyrna-Konieh or an Ismidt-Angora, or even an Ismidt-Konieh line, may give fair returns, it is doubtful what returns an Ismidt-Sivas line or an Ismidt-Diabekir line may give, and it is a moot point whether the more distant part of the line, when constructed, instead of swelling the profits, may not reduce them on the home kilometres, which already do not pay sufficiently to dispense with the guarantee. This is the view of the Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Public Works. Mr. Caillard is evidently not over sanguine of the future, for his

Report concludes by stating that the Government now holds the view—in his opinion a wise view—that it has for the present gone far enough in the way of guaranteeing railways. Other members of the Public Debt Administration have foreseen, months back, that the Government would have to face a deficit in the guarantee, and the Technical Adviser of the Public Works' Ministry, who has never ceased to oppose the guarantee system, estimates that the deficit the Government will have to meet amounts to 21,000,000 fr. on the lines in the annexed Table. He does not take into account the guarantee on the Angora-Cesarea section, the completion of which is not at present contemplated.

It is worthy of notice that the Sultan is now considering the advisability of granting the Concession asked for by the Smyrna-Aïdin Company and of withdrawing the Concession for the extension of the Cassaba Railway granted to M. Nagelmackers. The Smyrna-Aïdin Company is the only one which offered to construct an extension without a guarantee, and their proposal is still before the Palace. Lastly, the Imperial Ottoman Bank and the Paris groups interested in guaranteed railways have commenced to counsel moderation in the granting of further Concessions for guaranteed railways, and I am confidentially informed that it was Sir E. Vincent who suggested that Mr. Whitaker should write the article that appeared in to-day's "Levant Herald." Curiously enough Mr. Whitaker has omitted the chief and most important argument against State-guaranteed railways, as did also Mr. Caillard in his Annual Report, viz., that besides being a drain on the State resources, the guarantee is a premium on the bad working of the line, in other words, the Company knowing their interest on their capital to be assured, and seeing that no efforts of theirs are likely to increase the profits beyond the limit of the guarantee, starves the line.

I annex a Table showing approximately the value of the revenues handed to the Debt Administration for the purpose of paying the railway guarantees, taken from p. 53 of Mr. Caillard's Annual Report of 1893.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

February 21, 1894.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

TABLE showing approximately the Value of the Revenues handed to the Debt Administration for the purpose of paying the Railway Guarantees.

			£ T.
Previous total explained in the Report published last year			931,454
Kilometric guarantee of the	Teki-Schehr-Konieh Railway		98,550
" "	Salonica-Dédéagatch Railway		180,000
" "	Angora-Cesarea Railway		218,000
" "	Allaschekir-Karahissar Railway		120,000
" "	Damascus-Heridjik Railway		200,000
" "			1,748,004
Total			

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of February 21, 1894.

THE system of encouraging railway undertakings in this country by a guarantee, secured upon the tithes of the districts traversed, of a certain amount of traffic receipts per kilometre is one which needs to be very carefully watched in its working, lest it should lead the Treasury into engagements of too onerous a nature. The principle of this system is fairly sound in theory, because the obvious tendency of improved communications is to increase production; and it may possibly work out satisfactorily in practice in the case of railways undertaken with purely commercial objects. As an instance of the effect of railways upon production we may cite the Anatolian Railway, which seems by such statistics as are available to have stimulated agricultural industry. This we gather from the yield of the tithes of the four sandjaks through which that line passes, the increase in which has doubtless been influenced by the facility of transport afforded by the railway. Subjoined is a comparative statement of this yield

T

for the last four years, the four sandjaks being those of Ismidf, Ertogroul, Kutahia, and Angora :—

Year.	Sandjak.			
	Ismidt.	Ertogroul.	Kutahia.	Angora.
	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
1889-90	1,586,000	2,828,000	5,892,000	3,177,000
1890-91	3,208,000	2,588,000	4,995,000	1,925,000
1891-92	4,425,000	3,828,000	6,991,000	3,568,000
1892-93	5,920,000	4,068,000	7,105,000	4,948,000

In the first of these four years there was no railway, and the total of the tithes of the four districts amounted to 13,483,000 piastres; towards the end of the last of the four years the whole line was opened to Angora, and the total yield of the tithes was 20,339,000 piastres, an increase of about £ T. 65,000, or, approximately, 50 per cent. This is satisfactory as evidence of the stimulating effect of railways upon production.

But the increase in the tithes is very far from covering the guarantee, for the amount paid in respect of that guarantee for the year 1892-93 was £ T. 180,000, or very nearly the full value of the whole tithe yield; so that from the point of view of the Treasury the State was a loser by the guarantee to the amount of about £ T. 115,000 for the year, notwithstanding the increase in the yield of the tithe. Were there not attenuating circumstances in this case, these figures alone would suffice to condemn the system of kilometric guarantee. But it must be remembered:—

1. That the railway only affected the Sandjak of Angora towards the close of the year, although to some extent producers may have been stimulated by the early prospect of its opening.

2. That the low price of grain has caused producers to hold back.

3. That quarantine has disturbed the regular order of commercial affairs.

But, making full allowance for these circumstances, there is still so wide a margin between the value of the tithe increase and the amount which the Government is called upon to disburse in respect of the guarantee, as to recommend very great caution in extending the kilometric guarantee system.

The Anatolian Railway, which is the subject of our observations, is essentially a commercial line, and will probably continue to a larger increase of tithe, and will also probably earn considerably more than the 7,000 fr. per kilometre to which its traffic receipts amounted last year. But although these expectations are probabilities, they are not certainties, and until they become so they cannot safely be made the basis of calculation to justify a forward policy in the guarantee system. Moreover, the Anatolian Railway because of its purely commercial character and the unquestionable largeness, relatively speaking, of its commercial prospects, is a singularly favourable case in point, so that it does not admit of fair comparison with many other undertakings for which kilometric guarantees have been obtained or sought. Under these circumstances prudence seems to suggest that before giving further extension to the kilometric guarantee system, the experiments made in it should be fully worked out, in order to obtain from practical results a definite and well-grounded basis of calculation. Otherwise the Government may find itself involved in engagements which will seriously interfere with the fruition of those judicious efforts which are now being made by the financial authorities to bring about the budgetary equilibrium which is indispensable to the economic stability of the Empire.

No. 53.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March 2.*)

(No. 97.) *Constantinople, February 25, 1894.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 93 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora on the subject of the alleged infliction of tortures on Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Angora, February 20, 1894.*

Sir,

IN most of the Armenian Petitions I have had occasion to send translations of to Her Majesty's Embassy allusions were made to the tortures and other sufferings inflicted on prisoners during the late troubles at and near Yuzgat, and in my despatch of the 8th January, I reported the statement made on this subject by the prisoner Gaspar Lordoglou (Lordian).

In view of these alleged tortures forming one of the chief grievances of the Armenians in connection with recent events, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, translation of a Petition addressed to the Commission of Inquiry by the Gregorian Church and Lay Councils of Yuzgat, inclosing a document signed by a dozen inhabitants of Indjirli, enumerating the tortures actually suffered by seventeen of their relations and friends, and giving the names of some of the perpetrators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Petition addressed to the Commission of Inquiry by the Church and Lay Councils of the Gregorian Armenians of Yuzgat on the subject of the Treatment of Prisoners.

(Translation.)

WE beg leave to hand you, herewith inclosed, copy of a Report presented by the parents, brothers, and relatives of the oppressed Indjirli prisoners.

Torturing a prisoner, even if he be guilty of a misdeed, is unlawful, because he is a son of the Sovereign. We are therefore greatly embarrassed what to say about the tortures inflicted upon the poor prisoners—tortures such as the human heart would not suffer to be inflicted even upon animals. Are we to suppose that the hearts of the authorities and officials have not been touched by tortures such as no eye has witnessed nor ear has heard of before in any part of the world, so that they have shut their ears and have turned their eyes away? Nay, more than that, they have instigated and permitted their perpetration.

Seeing that our merciful Sovereign is so anxious about the welfare and peace of all his subjects, so as to sacrifice even his own health and rest to that purpose, we humbly beg your Highnesses to institute an inquiry, impartially examine, and discover the real authors of the misdeeds complained of, punish them as they deserve, and guarantee the prisoners everywhere against the recurrence of such terrible tortures in future.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

Petition sent to the Gregorian Church and Lay Councils of Yuzgat by Armenians of Indjirli, on the subject of the Tortures inflicted on Prisoners.

(Translation.)

1. BEDROS YARDIMIAN, 28, of Indjirli.

They bound him hand and foot, caused two men to sit on his arms, and then beat him fiercely, in consequence of which he fell ill in the prison, and is now in bed.

2. Missak, 21, brother of the foregoing.

He was beaten to such a degree that the men who did it were tired out. Not being able to extort from him the confession they desired, they deprived him of his

bread for twenty days. The prison guards took his rations, and gave him only one small piece of bread. Seeing that in this way they did not succeed any better, they sat on his head and beat him until he was forced to say what they wanted.

3. Kazaros Serkissian, 25, of Indjirli.

In obedience to orders given by Podougoun Osman Salih and Sungurlou Hussein Telnoush, he was fiercely beaten, and his natural organs were twisted by means of a cord tied round them. They threatened to kill him if he dared to unloose the cord, and they daily visited him for five days.

4. Sinakerim, 12 to 13, brother of the foregoing.

They brought him to the prison while ill, and when he was lying in bed they sat on him and beat him in the face. Osman Salih and Hussein sat on his head, and said, "You will either say what we want, or else thirty persons will pass over you" (viz., will commit an unnatural assault). Karabiyikli Hampar gave them 2 medjidiehs, and rescued him from their hands.

5. Barsamian Kaloust, 35.

When he first arrived he was cast into the cell and was allowed only a piece of bread every twenty-four hours. This went on for forty days. Hunger, cold, dampness, and nakedness told on his constitution, and he is now lying ill. He was not taken before the Commission.

6. Adam Aivazian (American subject), 30.

He was put into the thieves' part of the prison. Koutchouk Ali and the men from Avanos tried to extort 6*l.* from him, but as he refused to pay they stripped him of his clothes, and beat him in the cold. At length he was compelled to promise them a little money, which he paid the next day, and he was released.

7. Milrau Koulhanian, 22.

He was assaulted by Kara Youssouf, Koutchouk Ali, and Avanosli Bekri. Through Kurd Osman he paid 3½ medjidiehs, and was released. The prison guards asked them, "Have you managed it?" and they nodded affirmatively.

8. Sinekerim, 23, of Serai.

He was cast into the thieves' prison because he would not volunteer a confession such as was wanted; they beat him with tongs and hurt his back and face. Traces of the wounds can still be seen. As they gave him no place to lie down at night he was compelled to sit up, and was unable to sleep.

9. Palatian Dicran, 20, of Keuhne.

One of the guards declaring that if he did not say what was wanted of him savagely beat him. They intended to remove him into the criminals' side of the prison when the Commission arrived. But if they did not do that they extorted 2 medjidiehs from him instead, and took his boots.

10. Deukmedji Kirkor, 28, of Yuzgat.

In the police guard-house he was beaten by Shevket Effendi, the head guard, who gave him a black eye and made his body black all over, so that for eight days he passed blood.

11. Jacob, 29, tobacconist, of Maden.

They fractured his head in four places, thrust a tube through his hind parts, and blew in air, hurting his stomach and obliging him to wear a plaster on it for sixty days. They threatened to shoot him with a rifle, and they even placed him in position as a target; they sold his horse and appropriated the money, besides extorting from him 25 medjidiehs and one oke of tobacco. Although he was imprisoned here for a month previous to the Indjirli incident, he was declared to be implicated in that affair.

12. Onnik Kellidjian, 25.

They fastened a cord round his neck, in the criminals' prison; they cut his face with a stone, ultimately making him pay them some money to be left alone. It is evident that no importance can be attached to confessions extorted by such tortures.

13. Cazaros Barsamian, 25, of Indjirli.

In the criminals' prison they twisted his natural organs, they beat him until his body was black all over with bruises, they fractured his head in two places, and he fainted. They restored him to consciousness with water, and resumed the tortures which he could not bear, and consented to sign the paper which had been prepared. Subsequently he was interrogated, and upon his declaring that he knew nothing he was struck on the head with tongs.

14. Stepan Demirdjian, 38, of Indjirli.

In the criminals' prison they beat him badly, and cut his natural organs with a knife; he fainted, but was restored to consciousness by means of water. On his saying "I know nothing," they fractured his head with a rough stone. They washed his blood-

stained shirt, and made him wear it all wet. The authors of these deeds are Kizlar Bey Oglou, Kurd Ressoul, Avshar Imam, Karamagharli Oglou and Avanosli "Oushakhir" (the men from Avanos).

15. Karabiyikli Hampar, 35.

They threw him down in the criminal's prison, and thrust a sharp pointed stick into his ear, which has made him deaf. They twisted his natural organs and took off his clothes, leaving him naked. They beat him until he fainted, and applied water to restore him to consciousness, but, seeing that it had no effect, they burnt certain parts of his body, and thrust needles through his feet.

16. Kassador Kirkor, 45.

They twisted his natural organs, they tied a cord round his neck, and beat him savagely. In the police guard-house, with the cord still round his neck, they tried to force him to speak; seeing that he would not do so, two men dragged him out and, with Martini rifles in their hands, they threatened to hang him up if he declined to speak. Subsequently they buried him under a heap of animal manure. He, feeling as if he were going to suffocate, thrust his head out; they then struck his head with an iron shovel and caused a wound which bled profusely. Being confused he talked at random. He was not shown to any one for forty days, by which time his wounds had healed.

17. Arshak Yardimian, 25, of Indjirli.

In the prison they tied his belt round his neck, two men pulled at each end until blood rushed from his nose and mouth. He fainted, they took him to the w.c., and with dirty water they restored consciousness. After that they forced his boots down his throat and hurt it. They declared they would skin him alive, and they cut his feet with a nail, causing him to faint again. They applied water and restored him to consciousness.

About three hours afterwards they thrust a tube through his hind parts, and they twisted his natural organs. Being unable to bear these tortures he signed the paper. The authors of these deeds are Avshar Imam, Kizlar Bey Oglou, Kurd Ressoul, Cara Magharli Oglou, and the criminals from Avanos. The next day, when he was being conducted to his examination, he was threatened that in case he did not speak as desired the proceedings of the preceding day would be gone through again. They bound up his wounds, and he was not shown to any one for thirty-five days.

Men at the head of our national affairs, both ecclesiastical and civil, we beseech you, with tears of blood, to procure the delivery of our unjustly imprisoned sons, brothers, and relatives from the tortures they are being subjected to. Knowing that even the Commissioners charged by our merciful Sovereign to investigate the matter will not approve of these tortures, and, further, knowing that these tortures constitute the most important subject to be laid before the Commission, we humbly beg you to bring this matter before them.

(Here follow eleven signatures.)

January 8 (20), 1894.

No. 54.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 67.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 25th ultimo, giving your reasons for not sanctioning Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's proposal that he should proceed to Yuzgat to watch the forthcoming trials before the Special Commission now sitting there.

I concur in the view taken by your Excellency that, under the circumstances, the presence of Mr. Cumberbatch at Yuzgat would be unadvisable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 55.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 80.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 93 of the 25th ultimo, forwarding copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, relating to the recent disturbances at Yuzgat.

I approve the advice given to the Vali by Mr. Consul Cumberbatch, and reported in his despatch No. 15 to your Excellency, with reference to the attitude which should be adopted by the Commission of Inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 56.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord, *Pera, March* 7, 1894.

I CALLED, by appointment, upon the Grand Vizier this morning at his private residence, and had a long and friendly conversation with him.

I began by saying that I had not come to trouble him in regard to any of the current affairs under discussion between the two Governments, but rather with the view of initiating between us relations of confidence and friendship which would facilitate the treatment of any questions that might arise.

The relations between Great Britain and Turkey, which had for so long a period been of an intimate and friendly character, had, I said, been somewhat less cordial of late, and a feeling of distrust seemed to have grown up. This state of things could, I believed, only be remedied by a frank interchange of views. There might be faults on both sides, but we undoubtedly felt that we had reason to complain that British interests were not treated with the same consideration as those of other nations, and that our acts and motives were systematically misrepresented and misunderstood. This view, which I formed in England, was confirmed by the impression I found prevailing among the members of the English Colony here. It had never been the policy of the English Government to press for commercial Concessions for their subjects to the detriment of those of other countries, but we felt that in these matters Englishmen ought at least to have their fair share.

The Grand Vizier assented generally to the substance of my remarks. With regard to the commercial question, he said that no serious proposals for the construction of railways had been made by English firms. The only English Railway Company in Turkey, that of the Smyrna-Aidin line, had shown a want of enterprise in extending itself, and thus had lost the advantages it should have derived from being the first in the field. Mr. Staniforth, who was the only recent English applicant for a Railway Concession on a large scale, had asked for a line to Bagdad, which was out of the power of the Ottoman Government to grant, as they were already under engagements to a German Company in that direction. Several mining Concessions had, on the other hand, been given to English concessionnaires. There were no important commercial questions under discussion at the present time except the claims of Colonel Alt, and of those he hoped there was a fair chance of settlement.

I said it was important that this settlement should take place at an early date, not only on account of the injustice inflicted on the original constructors of the Haidar-Pasha Railway, but also as a means of remedying the bad effect caused in England by the unfair treatment of an enterprise in which Englishmen were so largely concerned.

His Highness then turned to the general question of the relations between the two countries. There were, he said, three matters which specially interested the Turkish Government:—

1. The Egyptian question.
2. The language of the English press.
3. The Armenian question.

With regard to the first: Lord Rosebery had been displeased because an answer was not sent to his proposals by the date he had fixed, and had broken off all further communication on the subject. I said that I was not authorized to make any suggestions with

regard to Egypt; that my instructions were to study this and other questions, and report to Her Majesty's Government upon them, but that, of course, I should be ready to listen to any observations he had to offer. He did not enter into details, but referred in general terms to the injury inflicted on the Caliphate by our occupation.

I said that there were two sides to that question, and that our occupation had not been without its advantages to the Ottoman Empire. The Arabist movement had been an anti-Turkish one, and a similar feeling was now again making itself felt in consequence of the attitude assumed by the present Khedive. If our occupation were to be terminated and the Egyptians were left to their own devices, there could be little doubt that the aim of the popular party in that country would be total emancipation from Turkish sovereignty. His Highness appeared to admit that there was some force in this view.

With regard to the English press, I repeated the well-worn explanations as to the inability of the British Government to exercise any control over it, and suggested that the only means of modifying its utterances was by adopting measures that would produce a favourable impression upon public opinion.

As to the Armenian question, the Grand Vizier referred to the bad effect produced by the sympathy shown in the Armenian movement by certain public men in England. This had undoubtedly stimulated its activity, and had produced a very painful impression at the Palace.

In conclusion, the Grand Vizier expressed his earnest desire that the friendship between our two countries should be maintained and strengthened. That friendship he considered to be of great importance to Turkey, and not without value to England.

He assured me that the Sultan would listen with pleasure to any remarks from me that were conceived in the same amicable spirit as those which I had addressed to him, and gave me some reason to hope that they might have the effect of influencing His Majesty's mind in the sense desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 57.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Rosebery.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 109.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 9, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Graves respecting the insecurity of the Erzeroum-Van road, owing to the depredations of the Haidaranli Kurds under Hussein Pasha of Patnoss, and the general unsatisfactory state of the country.

I instructed Mr. Block to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the contents of Mr. Graves' despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Consul Graves to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Erzeroum, February* 14, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report that I hear frequent complaints of the insecurity of the Erzeroum-Van road, in consequence of the renewed depredations of that section of the Haidaranli Kurds who are under the leadership of Hussein Pasha of Patnoss, in the Bayazid Sandjak of Erzeroum. Hussein Pasha does not appear to take any active part in the raiding of villages or robbing of caravans, but this work is accomplished by men who are under his direct control, and the proceeds are said to be handed over to him. If complaints are made, he is said sometimes to restore any property which is of no use to him, while retaining all that is really valuable.

This Hussein Pasha is the same man whose misdeeds were reported by Consul Lloyd in his despatch to Her Majesty's Embassy No. 86 of the 24th November, 1890, and by Acting Consul Hampson in his despatches Nos. 3, 6, 23, and 36 of 1891. At the beginning of that year, he was summoned to Erzeroum to answer, as it was supposed, for the numerous crimes of violence with which he was charged;

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but he was shortly afterwards sent back to his district to collect information as to the number of horsemen it could furnish to the new Hamidiyé cavalry. Subsequently, he was given the rank of a General of Brigade (Liva Pasha), and the command of the 8th Hamidiyé Regiment—this being only one of numerous cases in which high military rank was conferred upon notorious robbers and murderers among the Kurdish Chiefs. Since his promotion he has shown himself more circumspect in his conduct until quite lately, but no doubt the state of anarchy into which this vilayet has fallen during the Governorship of the late Haidar Pasha, and since his death, has encouraged him to return to his old bad courses.

The insecurity of his district is increased by the fact that his section of the Haidaranli tribe is engaged in a blood feud with the neighbouring Sipikanli tribe, in the course of which there has been a good deal of desultory fighting, and some loss of life.

It is hardly to be expected that there can ever be any marked improvement in the condition of the Bayazid Sandjak, or indeed of any part of Kurdistan, so long as Hussein Pasha and other criminals of the same stamp enjoy their present impunity in evil-doing. But now that the settled Mussulman population have come to feel the scourge of Kurdish lawlessness almost as sharply as the Christians, and have addressed outspoken complaints and Petitions to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, such as were reported in my despatches Nos. 28 and 30 of 1893, imploring relief and protection, there may at last be hope of remedial action being taken.

The most disturbed districts form the borderland where the three Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis meet, and under present circumstances effective concerted action for the pursuit and chastisement of raiding tribesmen is almost impossible to secure. But I am inclined to believe that a rearrangement of the administrative divisions which would place all these border cazas in the hands of one strong Governor, invested with full powers to deport the most notorious disturbers of the peace, and backed by a small but effective military force under his exclusive orders, would go far to pacify North-eastern Kurdistan within a few months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 58.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 110.)
Constantinople, March 11, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 535 of the 9th November last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch respecting the trial of Armenians accused of participation in the late disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, February 27, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 6th November, 1893, and the 8th and 24th January last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that little or no progress has been made in the trial of the cases therein reported.

That of the four Denek-Maden men was duly heard at Kir-Shéhir last month, and the papers connected therewith were sent to the Court of Appeal at Angora for revision. But in consequence of the reinstitution of martial law at Yuzgat, to which district Denek-Maden belongs, the affair has been sent back to the court-martial now sitting at that place.

The trial of Gaspar Lordoglou, of Ghemerek, and his four companions was postponed to procure the attendance of certain witnesses for the defence, but though a month and a-half has elapsed there are no signs of the witnesses having been summoned. The newly-appointed Procureur-Général having now arrived it is possible some step may be taken to bring their trial to an issue.

Dikran Gulbenkian, whose sentence was confirmed a month ago, still remains here.

The six Armenians who killed a Turk and wounded two others in a quarrel last November have not been tried yet.

Here and there Armenians are under arrest owing to their travelling papers not being considered in order.

It is difficult at present to estimate the number of prisoners at Yuzgat, because there have been numerous releases, whilst arrests are still being effected. I calculate that there must be a hundred Armenians awaiting their trial, if not more. Twenty to thirty were arrested in connection with the murder of two supposed informers at Akdagh Maden and Magharoglou (Indjirli), as many more on the occurrence of the events at Yuzgat on the 12th December, and about fifty or sixty since the troubles of the 1st and 2nd instant. These are all to be brought before the court-martial now sitting at Yuzgat, with General Mustapha Pasha as President, and two Colonels and one Major as members.

I understand that the sentences of this Court will have to be confirmed by the Ministry, or Council, of War.

In the meantime, all the prison irons, handcuffs, &c., at Angora have been sent to Yuzgat, which fact is taken as a proof that the number of prisoners to be treated as serious criminals is considerable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, March 3, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the Armenians now awaiting their trial, I have the honour to report that, in addition to the individuals enumerated in that despatch, the five men of Ghemerek, particulars about whose case were given in my despatches of the 19th October and 4th November of last year, are also to be sent to Yuzgat for trial before the court-martial there, and Ohan Hampar, the Mudir of Ghemerek, who was originally arrested on suspicion of having instigated these men in their alleged attack on the police escort, but who was not detained in custody, has been rearrested and is to be tried there too on that charge.

The desire of Sir Clare Ford that I should attend and report on the trial of these men, as expressed in his Excellency's despatch of the 17th November, will thus be frustrated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 59.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 111.)
Constantinople, March 11, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch respecting recent events at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, February* 26, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 5th and 17th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the following information I have received from a responsible Armenian source relating to what occurred at Yuzgat on the 1st and 2nd instant.

It is only natural to suppose that the scenes have been described to me in a light as favourable as possible to the Armenians, but otherwise I believe the statements are an accurate representation of what actually took place.

According to these versions, ever since the events of the 12th December the animosity of the Turks had been increasing, and the Armenians were made to figure as culprits instead of complainants, and a pretext was only waited for to furnish the Turks with an opportunity of attacking them again.

Amongst other harassing measures, summonses were issued against 80 to 100 Armenians to appear before the authorities. They were examined on the ground that they had not paid their taxes, but this was found to be false, and nothing could be done to them.

Next, false accusations were lodged against several of them, but nothing could be proved. Then men and women of the better classes were subjected to petty annoyances of all kinds in the streets and market-places, but as all this was quietly borne, no pretext was furnished for reprisals.

On the 1st February the police attempted the arrest of Kehribardji Kirkor, but he, fearing the ill-treatment inflicted on prisoners, refused to go. A conflict ensued, and he wounded the Police Commissary with a revolver and escaped. His house and those of the neighbours were surrounded by the police. In the meantime, the incident caused great consternation all over the town, and the Armenians left their shops and offices and hurried to their homes.

The next day, the 2nd February, though anxious as to their safety, they returned to business, because they were afraid they would be suspected of evil intentions if they all remained away, but on the way to their shops and offices they were searched by soldiers to see whether they carried fire-arms or other weapons. This further increased their fear and suspicions. Towards 10·30 A.M. that day the above-mentioned Kirkor was caught and bound by armed men after a struggle in which he was wounded. He was handled in a very brutal manner, and got wounded by the bayonets of the soldiers, which necessitated his having the injuries attended to directly he got to the prison. That night he was attacked by a guard called Esé and his companions, and was killed.

I may state here that the official version of this man's case, which was the origin of the subsequent troubles, is to the effect that he had been summoned in the regular way to be interrogated in connection with the previous conflicts, and on his non-appearance the Police Commissary had been instructed to bring him by force. In executing these orders the officer was wounded in the arm by Kirkor, and the indignation of the Mussulman population was roused. It is also stated that the police and soldiers were fired upon by Armenians when taking him to prison, and that this further contributed to alarm both the authorities and the Mussulmans.

Other incidents that occurred the same day are related as follows:—

Three Armenians, against whom there was no accusation, on returning to the town after having buried a woman who had died at the time of Kirkor's arrest, were arrested by soldiers, who bound them and dragged them off to prison. On the way they met a crowd of armed Mussulmans assembled near a mosque, who fell upon the three Armenians, and threw a lot of live charcoal over one of them. Another one got a bayonet-thrust in the side, and that night he was further ill-treated in the prison. Both his companions were also severely wounded.

These scenes encouraged the Mussulman population, who armed themselves and assembled in a public square, two minutes' distance off from the Governor's house. A general rush was then made on the Armenians, soldiers assisting in the attack instead of protecting the Christians. Shops, left open by their owners who had run away, were pillaged, and several Armenians who defended themselves were carried off to prison.

Whilst these events were taking place in the market-square, other parties of Turks broke into fifteen Armenian houses in the quarter not so thickly inhabited by them, and committed murderous assaults on the inmates.

Altogether, eight Armenians were killed and eighty-three wounded, twenty very seriously.

The tumult continued till sunset, when the officers collected their men and marched them off to their stations; the soldiers, however, were not satiated, and exclaimed, "We have not done the thing thoroughly, we ought also to carry off twenty or thirty girls."

Among the cases specially enumerated were the following:—

Pilan Oglou Ovakim, of the Touz Kaya quarter, was confined to his house by illness, and his neighbour, Teholek Hussein, a Mussulman, who had a grudge against him, thought the opportunity a good one to have his revenge. He entered the house and fired at Ovakim with his gun and revolver, then rushing out he cried out to some soldiers, "Here is a Committee, I have wounded their chief, come and finish him off." They rushed in and fired at the inmates, wounding Ovakim's sister in the ear, and also injuring his brother. Ovakim was taken with another brother and his old father to prison, where further wounds were inflicted on him.

Agopdjan, a tailor, living in the same quarter, was pursued into a friend's house, which was broken into and pillaged.

Ohannes, a tinker of the same quarter, was in his house with all the members of his family when it was attacked. His mother-in-law was severely wounded. He himself was carried off to prison after being also wounded.

Aivaz Serkis, of the same quarter, had his house attacked, and the greater part of his goods pillaged.

Hadji Youvakimoglou Avedis fled for security to the house of his friend, Keur Nalbant, and while looking out of the door to see whether the tumult had subsided was shot dead. Another bullet struck the daughter of Keur Nalbant, from whose cheek a bullet was subsequently extracted.

Dellek Caro's wife, going out to see what had become of a lady lodger's child, was also killed by a bullet.

Nahabet Effendi, in the Sheker Bounar quarter, had his house besieged by a furious mob, including soldiers, and a bullet nearly hit him whilst lying on his sick bed. All the other inmates took refuge in the wood-cellar.

The soldiers posted on the roads to Angora and Cæsarea dispersed themselves over the Tekke quarter and indiscriminately attacked every Christian they met; in some cases they resorted to the use of bayonets; they dragged Armenians to the prison in groups. Houses were fired into on the pretext that shots had been fired from them, and several of the inmates were wounded, whilst two or three men from each house were taken to prison.

Aivazian Artiki was fired upon, but escaped unhurt, only to be arrested. Two days later his dead body was sent to his family, and it was found that he had been mutilated, and his body was covered with bayonet-wounds.

The following are the accusations made against the authorities by which it is attempted to show that, though assuring the Armenians that nothing would happen, they instigated and connived at the attack against them. It is alleged—

1. That for three hours no attempt was made to stop the furious mob, the officers only appearing on the scenes at sunset.

2. That express orders were given to the doctors not to mention the fact that there were any bayonet-wounds, and that all the medical reports contain only the signature of one of the physicians, Dr. Ismail, a Mussulman, without that of Dr. Ohan (Armenian), as should be the case.

3. That four days previous to the attack breech-loading guns had been distributed to several Mussulmans.

4. That some of their Turkish friends told them not to blame Islamism for what had happened, because the thing had been ordered by the authorities.

5. That Bedir, a Mussulman "Moukhtar" (Headman), two hours before went to two coffee-houses and announced the attack for that day.

6. That though ten days had elapsed not a single Turk had been arrested.

7. That the Armenians, going to their work in the morning, had been searched to make sure that they were defenceless.

8. That a bugle sounded the signal for the general attack.

These accusations must be received with caution, as, though powerless to maintain order, I am not inclined to believe that the authorities can be charged with having

had a desire to foment or permit similar disturbances, and the difficulties they had to contend with must be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, March 5, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that news has reached me that seventeen Armenians have been condemned to various long terms of imprisonment for participation in the recent troubles at Yuzgat, and were transported in chains to Sinope last week.

There is a rumour that seven Moslems at Yuzgat have been hanged for the part they took in the attack on Armenians on the 2nd February, but this news requires confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 60.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 114.)
Constantinople, March 12, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a Circular which has been addressed by the Armenian Patriarch to his clergy.*

His Beatitude exhorts his flock to remain faithful to the Government, and to perform their duties to the State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 61.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 87.)
Foreign Office, March 20, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 109 of the 9th instant, forwarding a report from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the insecurity of the Erzeroum-Van road, and the unsatisfactory state of the country.

I approve your Excellency's action in bringing the contents of Mr. Graves' despatch to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 62.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 88.)
Foreign Office, March 20, 1894.

Sir,

AT my interview with the Turkish Ambassador on the 14th instant, his Excellency spoke to me on the subject of the Armenians.

* Not printed.

Rustem Pasha said that he had recently had an interesting conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the course of which his Grace had told him that he disapproved of the Armenian agitation in this country, and had disconnected himself from it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 63.

Anglo-Armenian Association to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received March 30.)

3, Ploweden Buildings, London, March 20, 1894.

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association to beg that your Lordship may be pleased to receive a deputation (not exceeding five in number), headed by Mr. Francis S. Stevenson, M.P., relative to the renewed persecutions of the Armenian Christians in Asiatic Turkey, and to the importance of securing the release of the imprisoned Archbishops of Marash and Zeitoun, and the recall from exile of the Bishops of Hadjin and Arabgir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN, *Secretary.*

No. 64.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 128.)
Constantinople, March 27, 1894.

My Lord,

SOME excitement has been caused here by an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Armenian Gregorian Patriarch, which was made on Sunday last.

The would-be assassin is stated to be an Armenian, and to have come from Cyprus. He has been arrested, and I understand the Sultan has expressed his intention to make an example of him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 65.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 103 A.)
Foreign Office, April 4, 1894.

Sir,

AT my interview to-day with the Turkish Ambassador his Excellency reverted to the question of the Armenians, and repeated to me his statements as to the entirely seditious character of the movement, and the complete absence of any persecution of Armenians on religious grounds.

I said that I fully acquitted the Porte of any intention to persecute the Armenians, and that I willingly accepted his Excellency's assurances, which I had no doubt were sincere, that the Sultan desired that no injustice should be inflicted on his Armenian subjects.

At the same time, I thought it right to observe that there was a very general belief that many innocent persons had been arrested and imprisoned by the local authorities, and that I could not too strongly impress upon his Excellency that it was as much the interest as the duty of his Government to see that the local authorities were not guilty of oppressive acts towards the Armenian Christians.

Rustem Pasha said that he quite agreed in the latter remark. The Sultan had several times sent his Aides-de-camp to the disturbed districts to report what was going on, and every effort would be used to prevent any just cause of complaint.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 66.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Foreign Office, April 4, 1894.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, inquiring, on behalf of the Anglo-Armenian Association, whether his Lordship would consent to receive a deputation with reference to the treatment of Armenian Christians and the imprisonment and exile of certain Armenian Bishops.

I am to inform you, in reply, that, as the circumstances connected with the subjects mentioned in your letter are well known to his Lordship, he is of opinion that there would be no advantage to be gained by receiving a deputation.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will, however, be requested to report whether, in his judgment, there is any possibility of obtaining the release of the imprisoned Bishops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 67.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)

3, *Plowden Buildings, London, April 5, 1894.*

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and I am directed by the Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association to earnestly request the sympathetic and early consideration of Her Majesty's Government to the following points which the proposed deputation desired, through the mouth of their President, to urge upon the attention of Lord Kimberley before it is too late for useful action. (*Vide* "Speaker," March 31, 1894, Constantinople Correspondence.)

1. That a Consular Officer (not a local unpaid merchant, acting as Consular Agent) should be deputed by telegram, if necessary, to attend the trials at Yozgat and Sivas.

2. That the good offices of Sir Philip Currie be requested at the Porte to secure the acceptance of the resignation of Mgr. Achikian, who desires to retire from the Patriarchal Throne at Koum Kepou, and whose forced retention of office causes great irritation to the Armenians generally, and especially to the less educated portion, who feel that the Firmans for the protection of the Church and people are broken without protest from the Patriarchate.

3. That efforts be made to secure the release of the Archbishops of Marash and Zeitoun from Aleppo prison, and that the Bishops of Hadjin and Arabgir may be allowed to return to their dioceses, from which they have been unjustly expelled.

4. That Lord Kimberley may consent to the early presentation of papers to Parliament relating to the affairs of the Christian population in Asiatic Turkey during the past four years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN,
Honorary Secretary.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Newspaper Extract.

THE Rev. Professor Thoumian, B.D., during a recent address at West Norwood Church on the persecution of the Armenian Christians, said he appealed to them as a Church of Christ. The Christians in Turkey were always persecuted one way or the other, and notwithstanding this they had the most prosperous schools, churches, and colleges in the Dominion. In Turkey there are two kinds of people, two kinds of religion, Muhommedan and Christian. The Turks were the former, while all Armenians were nominally Christian. About fifteen years ago the Turkish Government came to the resolution that the work of the Christians must be stopped in some way or another, not in so many words, but the order was made secretly. Their way of accomplishing this was to hatch up some political crime against the teachers or pastors, and, under the guise of putting down a seditious assembly, imprisoned hundreds, nay thousands, of earnest Christian workers. They put the teachers of their schools in prison, and so stopped that branch of the work. Not only were they put in prison, but when there the cruelties that were practised upon them were abominable. The preacher graphically detailed how he suffered torture and persecution for five months in the Turkish prisons, at the end of which time he was taken before a mock Court of Justice, and with six others sentenced to death. Had it not been for the direct intervention of the British Foreign Office he should not have been speaking to them that evening, for five of his fellow prisoners had already suffered death, the remaining one being transported to penal servitude, not as the English understood it, for in Turkey it meant slow death. What he asked them to do was to pray for the persecuted Christians, and, if possible, write to their representative and get him to present a Petition to the Foreign Office with reference to the matter. He held that it was the duty of England to protect the Armenian Christians, for that was laid down in the Treaty made at the end of the last Russian war, and the Island of Cyprus was given to them on the understanding that they should be so protected; but apart from that, he felt sure that England, who protected all down-trodden and persecuted ones, would not withhold that protection from them. And, as Christians, he felt sure they would help their brethren in the far-off prisons of Asia Minor.

We understand that the Professor will shortly deliver a lecture on the subject at Norwood.

Lord Rosebery has informed Mr. Francis S. Stevenson, M.P., with reference to the representations jointly made by Members of Parliament and the Anglo-Armenian Association on behalf of the persecuted Bishops in Asia Minor, who have been expelled from their sees on groundless charges, that Her Majesty's Government have failed to secure the release of the Archbishops of Marash and Zeitoun, now in Aleppo gaol. With regard to the Bishop of Arabgir, who is detained in Jerusalem, and whose theological seminary has been broken up, Lord Rosebery is officially informed "that the Bishop is not a prisoner, but residing in the Armenian convent, where he is treated like the other inmates."

Owing to these unsatisfactory replies, the subject will be again brought before the notice of Parliament in pursuance of a Resolution of the Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association. The Bishop of Arabgir is exiled from his diocese, and not permitted to leave the convent at Jerusalem. The Patriarch, of course, treats him with the honours due to his rank; but, nevertheless, the Bishop is a State prisoner.

No. 68.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 7.)

(No. 12.) *Erzeroum, March 6, 1894.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27 of the 2nd August, 1893, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the execution of an Armenian, Manug Shadvorian, who was condemned, four months previously, for the murder of Nouri Effendi, a police officer. This execution, the first that has taken place for many years past at Van, appears to have caused considerable excitement there.

Mr. Devey reports at the same time the execution of another Armenian at Bitlis, who was condemned to death for the murder of a gendarmerie sergeant. I believe this case to be the one reported in Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 15th April, 1893, and in my despatch of the 29th June, 1893, as having occurred at Avzot, near Moush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, February* 13, 1894.

YESTERDAY I had the honour to inform you by telegram that the convict Manug Shadvorian was hanged; this execution, which was little expected, is producing a severe shock upon the public feelings.

I learn that the criminal was condemned to death in the Appeal Court four months ago, but the warrant for execution was only issued by His Imperial Majesty two days ago, and was immediately carried out. At the same time an Armenian at Bitlis underwent capital punishment by musketry fire for having killed a gendarmerie sergeant, and I am inclined to suppose that this execution was on account of an incident which happened some months ago, when a few suspects having fled from Moush, to escape justice, to a village in the plain, were pursued by zaptiehs, who met with armed resistance.

Together with the order for the hanging of the above Manug came a mandate for the capital punishment of the four fugitives from justice mentioned by name in my despatch of the 1st December, 1892; it is believed that the first of these, Panos, was the actual assassin of the policeman Nouri on the night of the 16th October, though no doubt all were equally guilty. As will be judged from my despatch of the 27th October, 1892, the criminal who has suffered the extreme penalty might have been held to be not a principal, but only an accomplice, in the assassination—not, indeed, that this would necessarily have saved him from death; but the only evidence was that of a witness, Ohan, which was said to have been lacking in consistency and reliability. Further, there was his own confession, which may be taken for what it was worth, added to some circumstantial proofs; but the methods of foreign procedure, it will be remembered, for extorting avowals in criminal cases do not commend themselves to our notions of conducting trials.

This execution, which was carried out with due solemnity and decorum, the first that has taken place here for very many years, will recall to public memory that the convict's father and brother perished unhappily in prison a year ago, whilst confined on suspicion of concern in the same crime, and his last words were to charge the Procureur-Général with having maliciously conducted the case to this result: two circumstances which can only have the effect of embittering, whether justified or no, Armenian rancour against Islam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 69.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 29, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting Armenian emigration to Russia during the past year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 9, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the movement of emigration of Armenians from this and the adjoining districts into Russian territory, to which I drew attention in my despatch of the 5th October last, after continuing without abatement during the autumn and early part of the winter, has recently been put a stop to by the local authorities at the instance of the Armenian Archbishop of Erzeroum, Mgr. Shishmanian. Passports for Russia are now only furnished to such Armenians as still possess property in Turkey and can show that they only intend to visit Russian territory temporarily for business or family reasons. The Russian authorities, on their side, no longer allow Armenians to pass the frontier unless they can properly be included in the last-mentioned category.

I am informed that upwards of 3,500 passports were *visé* for Russia at the Russian Consulate-General here during the year 1893, and a large proportion of these represent whole families who have left the country. In addition, I have reason to believe that at least an equal number of Armenians crossed the frontier without passports, so that an estimate which I have heard made of 20,000 souls as the net loss to the Armenian population under this head during the past year may not be very far wide of the mark.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 70.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 29, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith extracts from a despatch addressed by Mr. Spadaro to Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting revolutionary movements at Amassia and Tcharshamba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Mr. Spadaro to Consul-General Longworth.

(Extract.) *March* 5, 1894.

À AMASSIA il a été dernièrement affiché des placards séditieux dans tous les endroits publics et le nombre des arrestations opérées s'élève actuellement à 130 environ. Cette mesure que le Mutessarif d'Amassia a prise et que rien ne paraissait justifier a déplu au Gouvernement Impérial qui l'a immédiatement destitué et l'a remplacé par Bekir Pacha, Caïmakam de Mersifoun.

2. Il y a quelques jours nos autorités ont découvert à Tcharshamba l'existence d'un Comité révolutionnaire dont tous les membres, au nombre de huit, ont été arrêtés et amenés ici. Des perquisitions faites chez un des membres de ce Comité ont amené aussi la découverte de huit fusils Martini et de 500 cartouches.

No. 71.

Colonel Chermside to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 7.)

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Constantinople, March* 28, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the inclosed Memorandum on the progress of railway enterprise in Turkey, in continuation of Nos. 12 of the 28th March, 1891, and the 22nd March, 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Memorandum.

Progress of Railway Enterprise in Turkey and Bulgaria.

(A.) Turkey in Asia—

(*a.*) Asia Minor.
(*b.*) Syria.

(B.) Turkey in Europe.

(C.) Bulgaria.

(A.)—(*a.*) *Anatolian Railways.*

1. Haidar Pasha (suburb of capital) Ismid - Eski - Shehr - Angora Railway, 590 kilom. (369 miles). Kilometric guarantee, 15,000 fr. (600*l.*). Line completed to Angora and taken over. Earnings, net, 1893, about 7,000 fr. (280*l.*) per kilom., leaving about 3,920,000 fr. (156,800*l.*) to be made up by the Ottoman Government.

The suburban extension, Haidar Pasha (present terminus) to Chemsi Pasha (quarters of Scutari), has not been commenced. Estimated cost, 7,000,000 fr. (280,000*l.*) Length, 4 kilom. (2½ miles); one short tunnel.

Eski-Shehr-Kara Hissar-Koniah extension, 472 kilom. (295 miles). Work during 1893 was much interrupted owing to cholera and quarantines.

Of the section Eski-Shehr-Alayand, 66 kilom. (41¼ miles), was commenced the 1st September, 1893; 30 kilom. (19 miles) are now completed.

From Alayand there is to be a branch, 10 kilom. (6¼ miles), to Kutahia. The special terms for the construction of this branch have just been arranged, but are not yet published.

Alayand-Kara-Hissar.

The adjudication of the next section is to be made forthwith.

Angora-Kaisarieh extension, 415 kilom. (265 miles). Kilometric guarantee, 17,650 fr. (706*l.*). Nothing has been done.

Adabasar-Bender Erekli Concession to Anatolian Railway Company. Projected extension, 200 kilom. (125 miles). Nothing has been arranged. No survey made.

2. Nagelmackers' Concession, Smyrna-Kassaba line and branches, 266 kilom. (166½ miles); main line to Alashehr (165 miles), no guarantee; and projected extension to Gubek and Kara-Hissar, 247 kilom. (155 miles), with guarantee for extension of 18,000 fr. (756*l.*) per kilom.

1 mouth of February 17, 1893 Concession 99 years from date of taking over Smyrna-Kassaba line.

The arrangement for buying out the English Smyrna-Kassaba Company, after long negotiations, still remains uncompleted. The Company claims 50,000,000 fr. (2,000,000*l.*). The Ottoman Government admits 34,000,000 fr. (1,360,000*l.*), and proposes that the debt should be liquidated by annual payments of 92,000*l.* for ninety-nine years. Nagelmackers' Association offers the Company 82,000*l.* Besides this, the Court of Chancery objects, I believe, to the winding up of a British Company by annual payments for a term instead of a lump sum. Nagelmackers, whose Concession only comes into operation from the time of his settlement with the Company, has considered an offer to the latter of 36,000,000 fr. (1,440,000*l.*), and may raise this somewhat. If he fails to come to terms with the Company, it is considered probable that he will invite the Porte to arrange with its creditors, and then let him proceed with his Agreement on amended terms.

According to Article 3 of his Concession, February 17, 1893.

3. Nagelmackers' Concession, Panderma-Koniah. Neither the plans have been presented nor the works commenced, and unless the Turkish Government chose to renew it, the Concession may be considered to have lapsed.

For details, *vide* No. 12 of March 28, 1891.

4. Mudania-Brusa, narrow-gauge, 1 metre, 45 kilom. (26 miles). No guarantee. The construction is poor, and the state of the locomotives very unsatisfactory; there are constant delays and accidents. The project of extension to Chitla is in abeyance.

5. Mersina-Adana, 70 kilom. (43½ miles). No guarantee.

The projects of normal gauge extensions to Osmanieh and Marash, and of narrow-gauge through the Bilmez gorge of the Bozanta River to Eregli, are in abeyance.

6. Baron Macar's Concession for Samsun-Sivas, &c., 1,800 kilom. (1,250 miles), 13,750 fr. (550*l.*) guarantee per kilom., has lapsed.

7. Smyrna-Aidin Railway and branches, 512 kilom. (320 miles). No guarantee. The hopes of the administration of this line of obtaining a Concession to construct the Dineir-Tchai extension, to join the Eski-Shehr-Koniah line, have recently revived, but nothing definite is known.

(A.)—(*b.*) *Syrian Railways.*

St. John of Acre-Damascus and branches, normal gauge, no guarantee, 270 kilom. (170 miles):—

	Kilom.
Main line	185
Branch—	
Banias-Nava	40
(Ca-area) Hauran frontier.	
Optional branches—	
Ruuins-Hasbeyah	30
Mejdeh-Caitha	15
	270
Nava-Bozra	50
Contingent extension.	
	320
	(200 miles.)

Reports from Syria represent difficulties as having arisen:—

1. As regards trace.
2. Between the two Concessionnaires.
3. As to expropriation of lands.
4. Delays as to import of material owing to quarantines.

Only some 10 miles of this line had been completed last summer, and work was not being actively pushed. It was believed that there was a difficulty about the capital for the prosecution of the enterprise, and that Mr. Pilling was about to withdraw from the undertaking.

Damascus-Beirut Steam Tramway, 139 kilom. (87 miles); 18½ miles to be on the spur-wheel and rack-rail system, Abt patent. Estimated cost, 30,000,000 fr. (1,200,000*l.*); gauge, 1·05 metre; one tunnel of 500 yards. A section of 50 miles of the line was completed last summer.

Another account gives 145 to 150 kilom. (90 to 94 miles), and 22 miles of rack-rail. First section, over Lebanon to East Fort, 47 kilom.; second section, plain, 45 kilom.; third section, anti-Lebanon, &c., 53 to 58 kilom.

This line will have a junction with the Damascus - Birejik Railway. This enterprise with the next is financed by one Association of French and Belgian capital, head-quarters, Paris.

Damascus-Hauran Steam Tramway, 100 to 104 kilom. (65 miles). This line runs over a level, easy tract, and has been constructed for commercial purposes. It is considered problematical whether it will pay.

The section Damascus Mezerib (or Mezirieh), 70 kilom. (44 miles), was opened last autumn, and it is believed the line has now been recently completed.

Was to be opened on March 1 (13), 1894.

According to a Consular Report, the total cost of above two lines will be 1,328,000fr. (53,120*l.*).

Ottoman Syria-Euphrates Railway Company, capital 15,000,000 fr. (600,000*l.*).

Date of Concession, June 21, 1893

Damascus-Aleppo-Birejik Concession to Mutran Effendi, a Syrian, for normal gauge line.

Damascus-Homs-Hama-Aleppo Birejik, and, it is said, facultative extension on to Telek on the Euphrates, where the latter emerges from the gorge through the Taurus Mountains.

First portion, about 550 kilom. (345 to 350 miles); exact length to depend on the surveys now in hand. Guarantee, 12,500 fr. per kilom. (500*l.*); extension, 250 kilom. (156 miles).

Concession for ninety-nine years, with preferential right to the construction of branch lines. Assigned guarantee, the annual tithes hypothecated to the Public Debt Council.

The Beirut-Damascus Steam Tramway Company has taken over the Concession. A published account states that at an Extraordinary General Meeting, held at Paris in July 1893, a sum of 72,000*l.* was voted, apart from the arrangement with the Concessionnaire, to be paid for expenses, disbursements, and indemnities incurred in getting the Concession *by others than the Concessionnaire!*

It is too early to pronounce definitely as to the financial prospects of this enterprise; every effort will be made to get the concession of a branch from Aleppo to the sea. It is thought that the Civil List may take over the line, which is advocated by the Turkish authorities for strategical reasons.

The military authorities object to the trace Homs-Baalbek, with junction at or near latter place, to the Beirut-Damascus Tramway, and want the whole stretch, Aleppo-Homs-Damascus, to be a line of the normal gauge.

Yaffa-Jerusalem, 54 miles, narrow-gauge, opened 1892-93; French Company, 160,000*l.* capital, 400,000*l.* debentures.

The optional extensions to Nablus and Ghaza are not considered likely to be remunerative enterprises, at any rate, at present, and there is no question of their immediate construction. The Company cannot pay interest on its debentures, and is applying for judicial liquidation; it will probably be reconstituted.

A Concession exists for a steam tramway from Tripoli to Saida (Sidon). No work in hand.

Both the Turkish Treasury and the Civil List Minister are awake to the financial difficulties in which an extension of the kilometric guarantee system is likely to land them; but this consideration is perhaps more likely to check development than to result in abandonment of the principle of only granting concessions of through trunk lines, on strategic grounds, rather than a series of lines from the littoral to the interior.

(B.)—Railways. Turkey in Europe.

December 28, 1890. Salonica-Monastir, 217 kilom. (136 miles). Concession for ninety-nine years. Kilometric guarantee, 14,300 fr. (572*l.*). Contingent extensions to Adriatic.

The railway to Monastir will be opened, it is expected, in June 1894. For details of first section, 97 kilom. (60½ miles), Salonica-Vertekop, *vide* my No. 29 of the 17th November, 1893.

At Vertekop the trace turns sharp to the left, and mounts past Vodina. On this section of 20 kilom. (12½ miles) there are three viaducts and thirteen tunnels, including the main one, besides cuttings, scarping, and embankments. The rails at end of February were laid as far as Lake Ostrovo.

As regards the contingent extension to Durazzo or Avlona, Consul-General Blunt reports that the study for traces has been made on behalf of an Italian Syndicate, with the result of the former route being considered the most advantageous. He adds, however, that the country is so difficult, that a kilometric guarantee of 29,500 fr. (1,180*l.*) would be demanded.

Monastir-Durazzo, 265 kilom. (178 miles), estimated cost of construction, 13,250*l.* per kilom. This information confirms the details given in my No. 12 of the 22nd March, 1892, which, in giving the probable guarantee required as about 30,000 fr. (1,200*l.*), adds that the country is so poor that the assignation of the tithes would not furnish security for the guarantee. As surmized in 1892, the construction of the proposed extension at present is very improbable.

Verisovitz-Medua.—North Albania to Adriatic.—Mr. Leatham Bright is applying for a Concession for a line to connect Verisovitz in Upper Albania, the third station beyond Uskub to the north-north-west, on the Oriental Railway Company's line Salonica-Uskub-Mitrovitza (33¾ miles from Uskub), with St. Giovanni di Medua on the Adriatic.

The military authorities, locally and at the capital, approve the idea. This would be an important strategical line for the Turks, and, when Dedeh-Agneh-Salonica is completed, would give through rail communication from Constantinople to the Albanian shore of the Adriatic.

Salonica, on the Ægean Burgas (and later Varna) on the Black Sea; Belgrad and Semendria (and later Rustchuk), on the Danube, would also all be in direct communication with the Adriatic, but, under existing frontier and customs arrangements, this might prove of no great commercial importance.

The country to be traversed is poor and unsettled, much of it hilly and difficult, and part mountainous.

A kilometric guarantee of 10,000 fr. (400*l.*) is sought, to be subsequently increased to a maximum of 15,000 fr. (600*l.*), the progressive increase being proportionate to that of the yield of the tithes of the district traversed and affected by the line.

Salonica-Dedeh-Aghach, 486 kilom. (304 miles); kilometric guarantee, 15,500 fr. (620*l.*). Works commenced July 1893. Two lines are now under construction: one from a point 3 miles from Salonica, near the Salonica-Uskub rail, to run to Chilindrin (near Lake Dovian); the other from Karasuli station (35¾ miles) of the same railway. These two lines, 100 kilom. (62½ miles) in all, are to meet at Chilindrin, near Lake Dovian. It is estimated that this section will be ready in October 1894, and the further stretch—Chilindrin-Serres—by May 1895. The portion Serres-Dedeh-Aghach is also in hand simultaneously. It is divided into sections given out to various contractors.

Vide Consul-General Blunt's No. 16, Commercial, of July 8, 1893.

Eleven sections in all have been commenced, and the twelfth is to be taken in hand as soon as the trace is settled.

	Kilom.
Karasuli Station on Oriental Railway to Ferejik Station on ditto	415
Chilindrin to Salonica	63
Derbend to Dedeh-Aghach	8
	486 (304 miles.)

The section of over 10 kilom. of the Mesta (Karasu) gorge, on the portion between Drama and Xanthi, is very difficult and costly, and is the most expensive per kilom. of the whole line.

Eighty thousand tons of material for this line, which is financed by a French Syndicate, head-quarters, Paris, was contracted for in Belgium and France.

The Concession includes eventual branch lines to the roadsteads of Orfani, Kavalla, and Porto Lagos, which branches the promoters expect to be remunerative.

Consul-General Blunt stated that the Ottoman Government can call on the Concessionnaire to construct a line to Jumáa-i-Bala, near the Bulgarian frontier. This does not agree with my information. The construction of these lines was advocated by the Civil List, and the very first clause of the draft contract specified the line Serres-Jumáa.

The Concessionnaire, Bandouy, had the route Serres-Jumáa examined. For 35 to 40 kilom. (24 to 30 miles) from Serres it is plain or easy-going; then for 15 or 20 kilom. (10 to 13 miles), mountain valley, and then comes a stretch of 15 or 20 kilom. (10 to 13 miles) of extremely difficult mountain gorge, the cost of construction of a railway through which is estimated at 500,000 to 600,000 fr. (over 20,000*l.*) per kilom. The Concessionnaire therefore declined to accept this clause, which was abrogated; but he has expressed his readiness to construct the line on special terms.

The Turkish military authorities attach much importance to the Jumáa branch. The Grand Vizier told the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent—"Turkey and Bulgaria are friends now, but might not always be so. This line would enable us to be in Sophia in twenty-four hours." Confidential.

The Bulgarians, on their side, advocate the line, and wish to make a junction with it. Sophia-Pernik-Kustendil-Jumáa has a nearer route to the Ægean than the Kustendil-Kumanova-Uskub trace.

I have visited the Struma Valley at and near the Bulgarian frontier. It is not there difficult.

When Baron Hirsch was constructing railways for Turkey, it was intended to connect with Europe viâ Sophia, Kumanova, Uskub, Mitrovitza-Novi-Basar, Banjaluka, instead of viâ Belgrad.

The trace Sophia-Kustendil, and viâ Eghri Bel Pass to Kumanova and Uskub, was approved, and much of the earthwork towards Kumanova was executed.

Epirus.

Janina-Luros steam-tramway and telegraph line. A Concession has been given to Assim Effendi, a War Office contractor, for this line, 63 kilom. (39 miles), with five stations, and also for the draining of the Luros marshes, 25,000 acres. The inhabitants of the tract traversed are to give the ground and timber for construction free.

Rodosto-Muradlu-Kupeklu station of Oriental Railway. A Concession has been applied for to connect the roadstead of Rodosto on the Sea of Marmara with Muradlu station of the Oriental Railway, 22 kilom. (14 miles) by road, with optional extension to Kirk-Kilisseh, and quays and docks at Rodosto.

The question of this Concession is not in an advanced state.

(C.)—*Bulgarian Railways.*

The remains of the earthwork on Hirsch's Sophia-Kumanova trace have been utilized in the short line, Sophia-Pernik to the Pernik coal basin, and this section forms part of any extension to Kavalla or Uskub. It is a Bulgarian Government line, and was opened on the 18th December, 1893.

Sophia-Roman-Tirnovo-Kaspichan, about 440 kilom. (275 miles). With the proceeds of the loan arranged in 1892 with the Viennese-Laender Bank, the Bulgarian Government has commenced the construction of the line connecting the capital with the railway north of the Balkans and the Danube Valley. The rail is to connect with the Varna-Rustchuk line near Shumla.

The line is divided into three sections:—

1. Sophia-Roman.
2. Roman-Tirnovo.
3. Tirnovo-Kaspichan.

The first section, Sophia-Roman, of 104 or 107 kilom. (65 to 66 miles), say 105 kilom., is now in hand.

Leaving Sophia to the north across the plain the trace follows the Isker gorge through the Balkans to the village of Roman, 20 miles east of Wratza. The section has been given out to contract to a Bulgarian firm—Balabanoff, the lowest tender—for 21,200,000 fr. (848,000*l.*).

The second section, Roman-Tirnovo, 175 kilom. (109½ miles), runs along the northern foot-spurs of the Balkan range.

Third section, Tirnovo-Kaspichan, 160 kilom. (100 miles).

The question of the construction of a Bulgarian line, Sarambey-Bazarjik-Chirpan-Eski-Zaghra-Yamboli, to join the Bulgarian line, Burgas-Yamboli, at the latter point, is under serious consideration. The discussion of the Bill has been adjourned to the next Session of the Sobranje. It is, however, noticeable that the few kilometres, Bellova-Sarambey, of the Oriental Railway Company's line, which enable the Bulgarian terminus to emerge from the Marizza gorge at Bellova, have been seized by the Bulgarians, who have just come to an understanding, it is said, with the Ottoman Government and its tenant, the Oriental Railway Company, both as to this section and that from Bellova to Vakarel.

Concluded March 15, 1894.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Colonel.*

March 12, 1894.

No. 72.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 9.)

(No. 20.)

Erzeroum, March 28, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following particulars regarding the Armoudan prisoners who are lying in the Erzinghian gaol.

These prisoners are now thirty-five in number, several of them having died since I last reported on this case in my despatch No. 44 of the 23rd November, 1893, and so far as I can ascertain none have been brought to trial as yet. Until the end of last year they were treated with a certain amount of leniency, but on the eve of the Armenian Christmas the discovery was made of a plot to break prison, in which all the prisoners, Mussulman and Christian, in the Erzinghian gaol were concerned, and since that date they have been kept in the closest confinement, and allowed no communication with their friends outside. Of course, this renders it extremely difficult to procure any information about them, but I am told that seventeen have been transferred to the condemned cells for safer keeping, while several who are regarded as more dangerous than the rest are in irons, and it is said that the reputed Chief, Hadji Caloust Halkan Oghlou, was lately paraded through the streets of Erzinghian in chains so heavy that he was unable to walk without assistance. Of Dr. Pachnian, and the man Devletian, about whom inquiries were made in despatches from Her Majesty's Embassy of the 24th August and 23rd October, 1893, I have been able to learn nothing further.

Though it seems almost incredible that the few Armenians of Armoudan, surrounded by a large Mussulman population, should have contemplated an armed

rising against the Government, it appears that the authorities are in possession of evidence showing that such a movement was really in preparation, and that the Armoudan people possessed arms and ammunition, and were in communication with Armenian agitators in other places. The ignorant peasants were probably induced to adhere to this movement by the example of Hadji Caloust, who is described as a flighty and ignorant young visionary, but has inherited the wealth and some of the influence of his late father, the leading Armenian Notable of those parts. His escape to the mountains with a band of armed followers was prompted by the knowledge that the authorities were cognizant of his doings, and about to arrest him and search his house; and I venture to express the opinion that the whole affair was one of the ramifications of that Armenian agitation which endeavours, by the creation of a mock insurrectionary movement, to induce Turkish reprisals, and to call European attention to the grievances of the Armenian people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 73.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Rosebery's despatch No. 63 of the 28th ultimo, I transmit, for your Lordship's information, a Memorandum as to the origin and tendency of the Armenian movement, which has been drawn up at my request by a gentleman who has had special opportunities of becoming acquainted with the feelings of the Armenian subjects of the Sultan.

I believe that the views set forth in this Memorandum may be accepted as a fair and unprejudiced statement of the position of affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Notes on the Armenian Movement.

SO far as this movement has manifested itself in Turkey during the past year, it has several peculiarities:—

1. It is not indigenous. Its active chiefs in Turkey appear to be Russian Armenians, those thus far captured belonging to a small band who came into the country in 1892, after meeting at Kars to form a definite plan of operations.

2. The form of organization among the Armenians of Turkey has been that of circles of different degrees of intelligence and knowledge. The members of the lower circles know neither the chiefs whom they obey nor any large number of their fellow-conspirators.

3. The immediate aim of the revolutionists has been to incite disorder, bring about inhuman reprisals, and so provoke intervention of the Powers in the name of humanity. Hence the field chosen for their operations is not the district where Armenians are most numerous, but a region where the Armenian element is overwhelmingly outnumbered by the Muslim element of the population.

The active support of this movement in Turkey has been drawn from among the ignorant, or from young men possessing some slight smattering of education. This latter fact explains the rooted belief in Turkish circles that the American missionaries are responsible for the movement, if not directly and wittingly, at least indirectly and culpably through their rash diffusion of Western education, without discrimination of the things which Eastern peoples cannot safely be allowed to know.

As to the mass of the Armenian subjects of the Sultan, their attitude towards the movement seems, at first sight, to be one of indifference. But thoughtful men, and those who have property interests at stake, are not indifferent. They see the hopelessness of insurrection; they do not wish to take part in revolutionary enterprises, and they condemn the methods of the revolutionists as revealed by the events of 1893. But a general and profound discontent with the present system of Turkish administration, together with

race ties and prejudices, and possibly fear of violence, tend to prevent them from active opposition to the revolutionists. Though having no purpose of revolt, they cannot be trusted seriously to assist the Government ferreting out the disturbers. Privately, they even deplore the instructions sent from the Armenian Patriarch in regard to denouncing revolutionists to the police. They seem also to feel that the weight of their grievances justifies neutrality towards an enterprise which, however foolish and even criminal, may by chance lead to a change of their condition which shall be an improvement. With all this, the educated and sober-minded Armenians do not appear worthy of much graver accusation than that of being in political opposition to the principles of administration of the ruling party.

If it were possible to establish Courts in Turkey which would deal even-handed justice to all classes, or, this being impracticable, if it were possible to find some substitute measure which would fairly give to the Armenians liberty of person and property, with some opportunity for legitimate development, the habitual loyalty to Turkey so often remarked as peculiar to the Armenians might again be counted upon to reassert itself quite widely, to the confusion of agitators and revolutionists.

The danger of the present situation lies in its tendency to carry the large Conservative element among the Armenians over the line which separates lawful opposition of political creed from seditious conspiracy. The present Turkish policy of controlling intellectual development by Muslim standards; the inability of the officials to distinguish between harmless criticism and active sedition; their system of making indiscriminate arrests in the hope of finding somewhat that will justify the arrest; the resort not infrequently to torture in order to obtain testimony; the use made by unprincipled officials of existing excitement in order to ruin personal enemies or to extort money by means of baseless charges; and the frequency with which the official class combine to secure the acquittal of officials or other Muslims accused by Christians, have increased discontent to the point of exasperation; and when taken with the well-known peculiarities of administration which burden all classes of the population, threaten to make rebels more rapidly than the police can catch them.

Latterly, however, many causes, including the conviction of impotence, have diminished this danger, leading men to co-operate with the Government by refusing to harbour revolutionists. In Marsovan the Protestant Armenians have been induced to make a pledge of such co-operation by a formal paper, which their whole body has signed, whereas during the height of the excitement there early in 1893 they were commonly unwilling to do anything which might seem to place them in hostility to the Gregorian Armenians.

No. 74.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 141.)

My Lord, *Pera, March 31, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 37 of the 19th January, and to Lord Rosebery's No. 37 of the 9th February, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received communications from Mr. Boyadjian, Vekil of the Protestant community in Turkey, and from Mr. Dwight, of the local branch of the Evangelical Alliance, relative to the interference by the Turkish authorities with the liberty of worship and teaching hitherto enjoyed by the Protestants.

I have spoken to the Foreign Minister and to the Grand Vizier on the matter, and have urged that instructions should be sent to the provincial Governors to redress the grievances complained of, and that general instructions should be issued in favour of the Protestants. Mr. Block has also by my instructions read the Memorandum, which forms Inclosure 1 in this despatch, to the Foreign Minister, and has handed to him a copy of the Memorandum (Inclosure 2) which states the particulars of the more urgent cases that have been brought to my notice. I have communicated a copy of this second inclosure to the German Ambassador and to the American Minister, both of whom take an interest in the welfare of the Protestant communities, and have asked their support to my representations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Embassy has received instructions to call the attention of the Porte to the interference which has recently taken place with the rights of the Protestant community in various parts of the Ottoman Empire in regard to liberty of worship and of teaching in schools.

The rights in question were secured to that community by the Firman issued by His Imperial Majesty Abdul Medjid in the year 1853. That Firman instructed the provincial Governors to afford to the Protestant community, like unto all other communities of the Empire, every facility and required assistance in all their affairs and in all matters concerning their cemeteries and places of worship, and stated that the Protestants should be "enabled to exercise the usages of their faith in security."

This Firman entitled the Protestant community to the freedom of worship and exercise of religion guaranteed by the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856.

In accordance with the authority then given, the Protestants were for a long period protected by the local authorities, and facilities were allowed them for holding religious worship according to their own rights and usages. In the last few years, however, this liberty has been seriously interfered with, and in many cases altogether withdrawn. This has not, so far as Her Majesty's Embassy can learn, been due to any acts on the part of the Protestant communities, who have conducted themselves as loyal and orderly subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. Out of several cases which have been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy, those which have occurred at Ordou, Fatsa, Eredjik, and Aghin especially show the hardship and injustice which have been entailed on Protestant congregations by the change in the attitude of the authorities towards them; and Her Majesty's Embassy earnestly hope that steps may be taken to redress at once the grievances complained of at those places, as well as to issue general instructions for securing liberty of worship and instruction in other districts.

1. The Greek Protestant community at Ordou, near Trebizond, for a number of years had held its regular services and schools in a hired house whose lease expired in 1892. The local Orthodox community objected to the acquisition by the Protestants of another house, and, though a Government Commission reported that the objections raised were trivial, the Kaïmakam of Ordou declared himself incompetent to authorize Protestant worship in a new place, and prohibited the Greek Protestants from holding Divine worship or opening their schools until they should have obtained a special Imperial Firman. In spite of the applications made, that Firman has not been issued, and a religious community of nearly 400 persons has been prevented from meeting for religious worship during a space of eighteen months.

2. The Kaïmakam of Fatsa, a neighbouring town in the same province, suddenly prohibited the Protestant community from meeting for Divine worship and conducting their school in a building which they had used for those purposes for upwards of fifteen years, and a community of 150 persons have been deprived of worship and educational advantages for more than a year, all efforts to obtain a Firman having proved unsuccessful.

3 and 4. Similarly, at Eredjik and Aghin, in the Government of Kharput, Protestant chapels which have been used more than twenty-five years have been closed because they had no special authorizations.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Aide-mémoire.

1. THE Greek Protestant community at Ordou, near Trebizond, for a number of years had held its regular services and schools in a hired house whose lease expired in 1892. The local Orthodox community objected to the acquisition by the Protestants of another house, and, though a Government Commission reported that the objections raised were trivial, the Kaïmakam of Ordou declared himself incompetent to authorize Protestant worship in a new place, and prohibited the Greek Protestants from holding Divine worship or opening their schools until they should have obtained a special Imperial Firman. In spite of the applications made, that Firman has not been issued, and a religious com-

munity of nearly 400 persons has been prevented from meeting for religious worship during a space of eighteen months.

2. The Kaïmakam of Fatsa, a neighbouring town in the same province, suddenly prohibited the Protestant community from meeting for Divine worship and conducting their school in a building which they had used for those purposes for upwards of fifteen years, and a community of 150 persons have been deprived of worship and educational advantages for more than a year, all efforts to obtain a Firman having proved unsuccessful.

3 and 4. Similarly, at Eredjik and Aglin, in the Government of Khurput, Protestant chapels which have been used more than twenty-five years have been closed because they had no special authorizations.

No. 75.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 147.)
Constantinople, April 3, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 131 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith some interesting observations respecting the present Armenian movement addressed to Sir A. Nicolson by an English resident of long standing in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Memorandum.

YOU asked me to report to you the opinion held by sensible Armenians on the movement of their countrymen in the provinces of Asia Minor. Since this movement began I have been in constant contact with numerous, I may say representative, Armenians, some being leading merchants, some Turkish officials, others petty traders. I have not come much into contact with the lower classes. I have not been able to detect any differences of opinion among the former classes, therefore conclude that they all hold the same views. They regard the movement as misguided and unfortunate—misguided, not in the sense that it is not natural and justifiable under the oppression the people suffer from, but misguided in the sense that it can have no practical result, and may accentuate the troubles and sufferings of the Armenian race. I do not think there is any Armenian of any class who does not sympathize with his countrymen in the interior, and who does not regard the victims of the movement as patriotic martyrs.

One leading Armenian told me: "We admit the movement is a hopeless one, but what can we say to our poor countrymen at Yuzgat and elsewhere, when they tell us, 'Better die once than die a thousand deaths such as we die daily under the present oppression'?"

I have not been able to detect any aspirations by sensible Armenians after a separate national existence under an Armenian Head. They admit that this is a mere Utopia, as they are in a minority, though not in the great minority which interested Turkish statistics try to show, but they do hope still, though more and more faintly as time passes, that some concentrated action of Europe, brought about perhaps by some massacre, &c., may force the Turks to put an end to the present state of misrule. As, however, their hopes in this direction get fainter, so do their eyes turn more eagerly towards Russia as their only possible saviour, and I am convinced we are within measurable distance of the time when every Armenian will become a Russian in heart, and will acclaim a Russian advance into Asia Minor.

The sensible Armenians all see the evils of subjection to Russia, the chief of which is their denationalization, and they admit the advantages of being under Turkey, in freedom from this risk, and also from conscription, but they also say that the present Turkish persecution of their race is such that even denationalization is preferable to it. As one of them told me, "L'honneur de nos ménages et la nécessité de vivre priment toutes autres considérations."

I regret to inform you that just as the eyes turn towards Russia, so a bitter feeling, based on disappointed hopes, is setting against England. Only on Tuesday last I had a long discussion with a well-known Armenian in Government employ, who told me that but for English encouragement at the first and English platonic support in the past year or two, things would not have come to the present pass, "for," said he, "the Turks resent such faint support, and press more and more upon us to do despite to it."

I have already stated that I have not come much into contact with the lower classes of Armenians, but from all I can learn from a few of these men and from their superiors, the feeling among them is very like that which prevails in the higher classes, with this difference, that, being the real acute sufferers, they reason less, and only act as any spirited man would act when victimized and oppressed, *i.e.*, blindly and unconsciously.

What is remarkable to me is that all of us who have had a long experience of this country's races should have been so greatly deceived about the Armenians. We all looked upon them as a race with all virility sapped out of it by fifteen centuries of subjection to alien barbarism, but this is clearly not the case. They show a virility and determination in a hopeless cause which is extraordinary, and you may be quite certain that when the time comes for Russia to invade Asia Minor again, they will play a very important rôle in it.

No. 76.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 151. Confidential.)
Constantinople, April 4, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111 of the 11th ultimo, and previous correspondence, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, inclosing copy of a loyal Address sent to the Sultan by certain Armenians of Yuzgat, and also extracts from a private letter written from the same place, giving a somewhat different account of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Angora, March 29, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to send your Excellency a translation of a telegram recently addressed to the Sultan by certain Armenians of Yuzgat, and containing expressions of loyalty to His Majesty, and of satisfaction with the Governor-General and the President of the Commission of Inquiry in connection with the recent troubles, which the signers admit as having been of a seditious nature.

On the other hand, I beg leave to inclose also a translation of extracts from a letter I have received from a correspondent at Yuzgat, who gives a different and less satisfactory account of the state of affairs than the perusal of the telegram would lead any one to suppose was the case.

He refers to the Address as having been sent under the direction of his Excellency Memdouh Bey, and points out the partiality and hostility evinced in the conduct of the Tribunals and the Government functionaries, as well as the treacherous conduct of certain members of the Armenian community, especially those who signed the telegram, whilst he also calls attention to the unhealthy state of the crowded prisons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Telegram from certain Armenians at Yuzgat to His Majesty the Sultan.

(Translation.)

FOR 600 years we have been living under the benevolent and just rule of the Ottoman Government in perfect confidence and comfort, and whereas those Armenians

who are under the rule of other Governments have been forced to relinquish their religion and language, we, the Armenian subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, like all other subjects inhabiting the Empire, have had our faith, language, goods, lives, and honour protected from all harm, and, having been allowed to trade in perfect freedom under His Majesty's benevolent protection, we have, every one of us, grown rich from day to day, and have always been in perfect harmony, like one body, with our fellow-countrymen the Mussulmans.

But for some time past the minds of some ignorant and youthful members of our nation have been poisoned by seditious ideas imported from abroad, which have given rise to some lamentable events quite incompatible with the justice and paternal solicitude shown towards us by our gracious Sovereign, and have deeply grieved us, the whole Armenian nation, which has never, in all its history, departed from loyalty and has greatly injured us, both morally and materially.

In order to serve as a new token of the world-renowned and all-pervading justice and mercy of His Majesty, his Excellency Memdouh Bey, the Governor-General of Angora, his Excellency Moustapha Pasha, President of the Commission of Inquiry, and other high functionaries, both civil and military, have been dispatched to our town, and an impartial Court has been formed by the aforesaid for the investigation of recent events. It is quite evident that the authors of the misdeeds referred to will, after careful trial, be punished with the punishment they deserve.

In the meantime, we humbly petition our gracious and merciful Sovereign to grant permission for the exportation of wheat, to obliterate from his mind the bad opinion which the events complained of have naturally induced him to form about our nation in general, and to look upon us in future in the same benevolent and merciful spirit as in the past.

It is for him to command.

Inclosure 3 in No. 76.

Extracts from Letter from Yuzgat to Consul Cumberbatch, dated March 15, 1894.

(Translation.)

IT will no doubt be asked, "What measures have the Government taken, and what has been their policy?"

That is our sorest wound; that is our chief complaint.

By a clever distortion of facts and by misrepresentations the Turkish population is declared faultless, the Government blameless, and the soldiers as having only done their duty, and the whole thing is ascribed to the misconduct of the Christians.

Placards have been posted up everywhere to this effect, and telegrams have been sent to His Majesty convincing him that as the authors of the previous troubles were Armenians, so this recent "revolution" (so they have chosen to call the last incident) was likewise caused by them, and that shots were fired upon soldiers from Armenian houses. But the most surprising thing is that whereas on the occasion referred to the Armenians had ten men killed, about seventy wounded, ten to fifteen houses and shops pillaged, and several houses fired into, the Mussulmans had not a single person killed or wounded, and not a single house pillaged. But, alas! what can we say? Our hands are tied, the telegraph is cut off, and we have assured ourselves that our letters are opened in the post. The Government is both accuser and Judge, and is pronouncing its sentences in a vindictive and fiendish spirit.

We do not know on what charge the lawyer—whose house has thirty to forty bullet-holes made with Martini rifles during the last troubles—has been cast into prison.

The brother of the man who was dragged from his house to prison by force of bayonets, and who died there in consequence of his wounds, has been compelled by the Government to desist from prosecuting, accused as an agitator, his house attacked by 130 soldiers, and he himself dragged from his sick bed and cast into prison.

The son of a Notable of Pulherenk has been arrested and imprisoned on the pretext that tobacco was found on his brother. Another brother was murdered at a spot two hours from Yuzgat and fifteen minutes from the village of Elma Hajili, but his body has not been found. When their father was about to bring these cases before the Court, he was threatened with the charge of sheltering "Committee" men in his house. Needless to say that this was enough to make him desist.

* * * * * * *

The Armenians are being submitted to rigorous trials, and are cast into prison by groups, while murderers whose names are known, and men who have attacked and pillaged houses and shops, are still allowed to go about unmolested; not a single Turk has been punished on account of these events, they are allowed to boast in public of their achievements.

The Government is displaying great cleverness in the means employed towards attaining the end it has in view; terrorism, false accusations, threats, are all resorted to, and liberal promises are made to some avowed enemies of the Armenian nation. In order to conceal the barbarity it has been guilty of, martial law was proclaimed in Yuzgat the very day after the last events, and a court-martial was instituted, not at Angora or Sivas, or Cæsarea, where British or American Consuls, or a few foreigners reside, but at Yuzgat, where there is not a single foreigner.

Only recently copies of the following telegram were seen in the hands of several officials. It was from the Sultan, and ran as follows:—

"I have been greatly pleased at the patience shown by my Mussulman subjects during the attack made upon them by the Christians."

The members of the court-martial, guided by the spirit of this telegram, will naturally not hesitate to condemn some of us to death, some to penal servitude, and some to five or eight years' imprisonment, while the Mussulman population, encouraged by this telegram, are publicly declaring that they will make another attack upon the Christians before the 27th March.

Strict orders have been given to the Mussulmans to abstain from giving evidence in favour of Christians. On the other hand, no Christian witness is allowed against a Moslem, though the latter is permitted to give evidence in favour of his co-religionist.

If the slightest accusation is ventured against a soldier, the plaintiff is sharply reprimanded, and if a petition is presented against a Turk, soldier or private individual, the petitioner soon finds himself charged with some offence or other, and landed in prison.

A man who had received ten wounds at the time of the first troubles (12th December), and had to remain in bed for forty days, filed a petition, as soon as he was well enough, against his assailants; he had no sooner done this when he was accused of having used bad language, and was cast into prison, whilst the culprits he wanted to sue are still at large.

Numbers of Indjirli men, tortured in order to extract confessions, have been sentenced as criminals, while the zaptiehs and the officials who were concerned in the well-known assaults and misdeeds committed at Kara-Yacoub and Kara-Tchair have not been brought to trial, nor even reprimanded or dismissed.

But the women, who came to the Church authorities to complain of the assaults which they had been the victims of, have been threatened into withdrawing their charges.

No Armenian is allowed to leave the town and to look after his trade; the shops of some are shut, and the owners in prison. Consequently, poverty and misery are extreme. The whole population, numbering 1,500 families, have lost their business, and one-half have now no means of livelihood.

In the meantime they are forced to free all their debtors (Turkish) or go to prison as the only alternative, and crowd the prisons, where some of them soon die.

In the villages they are oppressed for taxes just the same as at Yuzgat.

* * * * * *

The Government has found and attached to its service, by means of threats or liberal promises, several avowed traitors of our nation, such as Dirdat Vartebil, and some ten or fifteen others, who are ready to do anything to discredit our nation. With their assistance our Vali, Memdouh Bey, got a telegram sent to the Sultan, which he dictated himself, and paid for its transmission. It was in his favour, and was signed by these individuals.

These enemies of the nation, not confining their energies to Yuzgat, are launching their accusations against the poor inhabitants of the villages.

According to information which reaches us from the prison, the Government has formed a band of thirty to forty false witnesses, who are eager to assert any false accusations preferred against the Armenians. The matter has reached such a point that the heirs of murdered men and the wounded themselves are terrorized into giving up their cases, and into declaring that they have no complaint against any one.

* * * * * *

The prison, where about 250 Armenians are confined, is an underground cell about 2½ to 3 yards high, damp and wet. In the opinion of the Municipality doctor, if these men are left there much longer many of them will not survive.

No. 77.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the dismissal of the "Procureur-Général," and its supposed reasons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, March 22, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Procureur-Général" of Erzeroum, Reschid Bey, has just been dismissed, in addition to the Cadi, Nesib Effendi.

Reschid Bey is about 35 years of age, and the son of Zia Effendi, of Erzinghian, the former Secretary of the Erzeroum Council, and now President of the Criminal Court at Trebizond. He has only been a little more than a year at Erzeroum, his last post having been that of "Procureur-Général" at Angora, and from all I can learn he bears a good character, and his duties have been satisfactorily performed.

The following is the report which is current here in explanation of the sudden dismissal of these two prominent judicial officers, who certainly appear to be above the average of their fellows in capacity and integrity. It seems that while the Cadi, Nesib Effendi, was Acting Vali after the death of Haider Pasha, the First Commissary of Police, Kadim Bey, who recently held the same post at Van, proposed to him that they should cause a number of Armenian houses to be searched in the hope of discovering compromising documents, and being rewarded by the Government for their zeal. This was strongly opposed by the Cadi and the "Procureur-Général" on the ground that there were no present signs of Armenian disaffection at Erzeroum, and that such a measure would only create uneasiness and discontent. On this Kadim Bey, backed by his friend Vahbi Effendi, the Director of Public Instruction, who is also a recent importation from the Van Vilayet, addressed a Report directly to the Minister of Police at Constantinople complaining of the Cadi's and "Procureur-Général's" conduct in the matter, and their dismissal is generally attributed to their intrigue. I cannot but think that Kadim Bey and Vahbi Effendi had learned their lesson in the school of their former Chief at Van, Khalil Bey, the present Vali of Sivas.

Fears are naturally entertained by the Armenians that this step portends increased severity in their treatment, which, in the absence of any serious justification, is much to be deprecated. But I am glad to say that it is believed that the new Vali, Hakki Pasha, is favourably inclined towards the dismissed officials, and that he has telegraphed to Constantinople asking that the "Procureur-Général" at least should be reinstated, unless any real dereliction of duty can be proved against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 78.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 35 of the 18th January, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, with

inclosure, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that the Armenian Patriarch has refused to ratify the appointment of Archbishop Bogos as his Vicar in the Vilayet of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, March 21, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th January last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that the Armenian Patriarchate at Constantinople had refused to ratify the election of Archbishop Bogos as Murakhas Vekil of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Van, February 27, 1894.

Sir,

WITH respect to the election of Archbishop Bogos Effendi, reported in my despatch of the 26th December, 1893, I have now the honour to inform you that the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, in the name of the National Assembly, has addressed here a telegraphic communication stating that his nomination is disapproved, and further blaming the Van Local Council for having exceeded their functions, and held an unauthorized election.

Since the departure of Mgr. Ayvazian, who was sent from Constantinople as Bishop of Van, the Patriarchate has been represented by a "Vartabed," Sahag Effendi, who continues to act as Murakhas Vekil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY

No. 79.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 5, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the arrest of an Armenian trader at Moush for supposed communication with Mr. Lynch, an English traveller.

I propose to postpone taking any action until Mr. Graves has been able to verify his statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, March 24, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed on good authority of the arbitrary imprisonment by the Moush authorities of an Armenian trader of that town, under the following circumstances:—

The person in question is a native of Egin, and keeps the principal provision and grocery store in Moush, but my informant has unfortunately omitted to furnish me

with his name. About the end of last November an English traveller, Mr. H. F. B. Lynch, passed through Moush, where his movements were very closely watched by the authorities. While he was there he purchased provisions for his journey to Erzeroum at this Armenian's store, and, after his departure, the man was arrested and thrown into prison, on the ground that he must have had communications with Mr. Lynch, and have supplied him with information of a nature injurious to the Government.

At this season there are practically no direct communications between Moush and Erzeroum, and I am unable to verify the story, but rather than wait several weeks for fuller information I have thought it my duty to report it in its present incomplete form, in case your Excellency should see fit to take any action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 80.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 9, 1894, 6 P.M.*

CONSUL CUMBERBATCH telegraphs that the Commission at Yuzgat has condemned fifteen Armenians to death, and has applied to Constantinople for authority to carry out the sentences immediately.

No. 81.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 9, 1894, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram, I am taking steps to bring the Yuzgat sentences privately to the notice of the Sultan.

No. 82.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 109 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 9, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 131 and 147 of the 28th ultimo and 3rd instant, forwarding Memoranda relating to the Armenian movement, and also your telegram No. 41 of the 9th instant, reporting the intended execution of fifteen Armenians in connection with the disturbances at Yuzgat.

The perusal of these Memoranda has made a painful impression on Her Majesty's Government, and I have to request your Excellency to take any fitting opportunity of calling the attention of the Sultan, through whatever channel you may think most suitable, to the danger of playing into the hands of the revolutionists, and promoting the ends of Russia by undue severity and indiscriminate punishments.

I have informed your Excellency by telegraph to-day of the disastrous effect which will be produced in this country if the proposed executions are carried out, and I have urged you to endeavour, in any way that you may consider judicious, to obtain some mitigation of the sentences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 83.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 10, 1894, 12·5 P.M.*

YUZGAT sentences: your Lordship's telegram No. 19.

I propose to wait a few days before making a communication to the Porte.

My private representation has been brought to the notice of the Sultan; but *an attendant* it would be better not to mention it publicly for fear of wounding the susceptibilities of His Imperial Majesty.

No. 84.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 10, 1894, 3 P.M.*

I HAVE just had a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Yuzgat sentences. His Excellency informed me that although intelligence had reached the Porte that the official documents were about to be sent off none had yet arrived, and that they were therefore still in ignorance as to the number of capital sentences. The documents would be made the subject of careful consideration here. He gave me to hope that His Imperial Majesty would extend his clemency to any of the accused not actually convicted of murder. In no case would any capital sentence be carried out without full authority from Constantinople.

No. 85.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 10, 1894.*

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of two letters from the Anglo-Armenian Association and of my replies, in regard to the action which they desire Her Majesty's Government to take for the benefit of the Armenian Christians of Asiatic Turkey.*

I shall be glad to receive your Excellency's observations upon these proposals, as well as your views as to the possibility of obtaining the release of the imprisoned Archbishops of Zeitoun and Marash (Furnooz), or a mitigation of their sentence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 86.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 10, 1894.*

I LAID before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 5th instant, requesting that his Lordship will give his favourable consideration to certain suggestions made by the Anglo-Armenian Association, with a view to benefiting the Armenian Christians of Asiatic Turkey.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for his observations.

Lord Kimberley has, however, already been in communication with Sir P. Currie on the question whether a British Consular officer should attend the trials at Yuzgat, and is disposed to believe that the presence of such an officer during the proceedings of the Special Commission would be undesirable.

The retirement or maintenance in office of the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople is not, in his Lordship's opinion, a matter in which Her Majesty's Ambassador

* Nos. 85, 86, 87, and 88.

can properly interfere. His Excellency will be requested, in accordance with the assurance already given to your Society, to report whether there is any prospect of obtaining the release of the imprisoned Archbishops of Zeitoun and Marash, or any mitigation of their sentence.

As to your request for the publication of the correspondence relating to the Christian population of Asiatic Turkey during the last four years, I am to state that His Lordship must adhere to the opinion expressed in the letter from this Office of the 5th September last, as to the inexpediency of such a publication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. PERCY ANDERSON.

No. 87.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April 12, 1894, 6·30 P.M.*

CONSUL CUMBERBATCH informs me by telegraph that he learns that thirty-five Armenians have been condemned to terms of imprisonment varying from five to fifteen years, twenty-five to imprisonment for life, and twenty have been condemned to death.

No. 88.

Consul-General Holmwood to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 10. Consular.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, April 7, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to confirm my telegram of yesterday drawing your Lordship's attention to an article which appeared in "Herapath's Railway Journal" of the 30th March regarding the proposed transfer of the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway to a French Syndicate, and the prejudicial effect of such a measure on British interests in this country.

Besides the interest which the majority of our subjects at Smyrna take in the two British railways which have their termini here, owing to the fact that the prosperity of their trade depends to a great extent on the efficiency of these lines, most of the English residents here are considerable shareholders in one or both Companies. Having learnt that those holding Cassaba Railway stock were in communication with their co-shareholders at home with a view to resisting the proposal of the Directorate to sell the line to a Franco-Belgian Syndicate, I thought it might be well to bring the article in the "Railway Journal" to your Lordship's notice, as it very accurately represents the situation, with a breadth of view which indicates that it was not inspired by either party in the present contest.

In my Commercial Reports for 1889 and 1890 I gave full details regarding the present scope and future prospects of our railways in this country, and in these, as well as in subsequent despatches, I called attention to the dangers which it must be anticipated would in the future threaten the position of the lines as British undertakings. Those warnings are now in course of fulfilment, but the advice which I ventured to offer, to the effect that the Companies should sink all differences and jealousies with a view to bringing about the amalgamation of the two British lines, has not commended itself to their administrators.

Since then the railway extensions towards the East, which are likely at no distant date to form the base of a system extending to the Persian Gulf, and eventually to Northern India, have been secured by Germany, thus cutting off one of our railways (the Aidin) from its natural goal at Bagdad; and now a Franco-Belgian Syndicate has obtained a Concession which effectually stops our other railway from all extension Eastwards.

This latter combination cannot, however, I am convinced, carry out its Concession until it obtains possession of one or other of our lines, hence the efforts which its representatives are now making to purchase the Cassaba Railway.

It therefore still appears to me certain that the only way to prevent railway communication with the Far East from passing permanently beyond our control would be

the breaking off of the present negotiations between the Cassaba Railway Company and the Franco-Belgian Syndicate, and the prompt amalgamation of the two British lines.

Unless this be accomplished our trade in this country will receive a severe blow, and the very practical influence which our present monopoly of the Mediterranean termini gives us will be permanently lost.

But beyond this it appears very probable that, with these lines still in British hands, the German Concession, which involves the construction of a long and costly railway to the Persian border, will never obtain the capital necessary for so vast an undertaking, and that German capitalists would therefore be led to make acceptable overtures to the combined British Companies which might obviously lead to the present railway extension towards the East, as well as the future line to India, being permanently secured by a powerful Anglo-German Corporation.

That the Sultan must eventually, for strategic reasons, give the Aidin Company leave to extend as far as Chai, or some other point on that section of the German line, there can be little doubt; but, as far as British interests are concerned, this would only augment the local traffic of that railway.

The special bearing which this subject has on the future of British trade, and on the interests of our Indian possessions, will, I trust, lead your Lordship to approve my having submitted these views for consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERIC HOLMWOOD.

No. 89.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(Received April 13.)

Dear Sir, *3, Plowden Buildings, London, April 13, 1894.*

MR. FRANCIS STEVENSON will probably ask you this afternoon to use your best offices with Lord Kimberley to secure the pardon of the Armenians sent to Sinope and there sentenced to death. We are informed that the disturbances were fomented by agents of the Government, and that the Armenians are not responsible. I send this in case Mr. Stevenson should be away to-day.

Yours truly,
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN.

No. 90.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 13, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 141 of the 31st ultimo, informing me of the representations which you have made to the Turkish Government on the interference by the local authorities with the rights of the Protestant communities in various parts of the Empire.

I have to express my approval of the action taken by your Excellency in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 91.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Dear Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1894.*

I HAVE submitted to Lord Kimberley your letter of the 13th instant respecting the case of the Armenians upon whom sentence has been passed in connection with the riots at Yuzgat.

His Lordship has authorized me to inform you, in reply, that the matter has already occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and

that Sir P. Currie will continue from time to time to take such steps as are justified by the information at the disposal of the Foreign Office, and as are likely to be of use.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

No. 92.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1894.

IN the course of the conversation which I had with the Turkish Ambassador at the Foreign Office to-day I took the opportunity of pointing out how important it was for the interests of the Sultan that the proceedings against Armenians who were accused of plots against the Government should be conducted with justice and moderation, and that no indiscriminate or wholesale punishments should be inflicted.

Rustem Pasha said he entirely concurred in this view, and promised to report my observations to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 93.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1894.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 13th instant, urging the immediate intervention of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on behalf of the Armenians under sentence of death at Yuzgat.

I am directed by his Lordship to inform you, in reply, that a copy of your communication will be forwarded to his Excellency, who has already been assured by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that these sentences will not be confirmed except after careful consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 94.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(Received April 20.)

Dear Sir, 3, *Plowden Buildings, London, April* 20, 1894.

I AM much obliged to you for your private note of the 17th. What we desire to effect just now is (1) the careful revision by Sir P. Currie of the Yuzgat and Sivas proceedings; (2) the release of the Archbishops of Marash and Zeitoun; and (3) the recall from exile of the Bishops of Hadjin and Arabgir.

There is a strong feeling that Her Majesty's Government are interested solely in the non-Episcopal Armenians, and that the clergy and members of the National Church suffer and plead for help in vain. The Catholicos himself has expressed this view, and it is certainly shared by the Armenians in England as well as in Egypt (through whom we receive tidings of the exiled Bishops). Mr. F. S. Stevenson and the English members of the Anglo-Armenian Association are most anxious that this impression should be removed. It can, we feel, only be removed by the British Embassy adopting the tone which it is entitled to do by Treaty, rather than by preferring mild requests similar to such as would be fitting if made by the Danish or Netherlands Legation at the Porte. Perhaps, therefore, as we have decided to postpone our annual dinner for a few weeks, Lord Kimberley may feel disposed to communicate later on the result of Sir P. Currie's latest representations. We fully recognize the political difficulties surrounding the Armenian question, although we confidently believe that the appearance of a Blue Book could do no possible harm to the Armenians—though it would hardly please the Porte—and I should be glad if

you would bring to Sir T. H. Sanderson's notice the interview in the "Methodist Times," which is the considered expression of the views of our Council made through Mr. Stevenson.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN.

No. 95.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, April* 20, 1894, 7·30 P.M.

THE transmission of news from Yuzgat has been privately arranged for by me.

No. 96.

Foreign Office to Sir J. Pease, M.P.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1894.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and of the Memorial inclosed from the Standing Representative Committee of the Society of Friends in Great Britain, calling upon Her Majesty's Government to address earnest remonstrances to the Turkish Government in regard to its treatment of the Armenian Christians.

In reply, I am to state that the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government does not confirm the widely spread belief that the arrest and imprisonment of Armenians in Asiatic Turkey are attributable to their religious faith.

I am to add that, in those cases where Armenians appear to have suffered unmerited hardship, Her Majesty's Government have done, and will continue to do, what is in their power for the relief of such cases, by bringing the facts under the consideration of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 97.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, April* 15, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a letter from Mr. Dwight, of the Constantinople Bible House, inclosing some extracts from the report of a missionary in Bitlis, on the present state of the Armenian population.

Mr. Dwight agrees with the writer of these notes in regarding freedom of emigration as the best remedy for the prevalent distress.

I do not think that anything can be done at present in the sense desired, but I will bear the suggestion in mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Rev. H. Dwight to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
My dear Sir, *Bible House, Constantinople, April* 13, 1894.

ALLOW me to send you extracts from a letter just received from Rev. G. P. Knapp, missionary at Bitlis. It has bearing on the question of the attitude of Armenians towards the revolutionists, which was a subject of our conversation the other day.

It seems to me that Mr. Knapp's suggestion concerning the securing of freedom to emigrate for such of the people as wish to leave the country, is a method of ameliorating suffering which might be practicable. The question of back taxes is the chief difficulty. Yet the possibility of squeezing more out of these wretches than is now taken is doubtful. At all events, I would like to bespeak your consideration of the suggestion.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) HENRY O. DWIGHT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Notes from Bitlis.

(Confidential.)

IT is probably a fact not fully appreciated that the depredations of the Kurds, especially of those supplied with arms and uniforms by the Government, are not merely winked at, but they seem to have secret orders from some source to plunder and weaken the Christians all they can.

2. In this city the same thing is being done by the most barefaced blackmail. Many of the men of means have already been plucked, and the business still goes on. It is merely a matter of business agreement as to terms. Houses are searched as a pretext. A few old books are taken to serve as evidence, and the man is kept until he has given as much as he is thought able to give. This business would not succeed so well but for the impression that has got abroad that there is a revolutionary movement, and men fear that they will be accused of some connection with that. They buy themselves off as cheaply as they can, knowing well that if they once get into the toils it will be hard to get out, guilty or innocent.

3. And let me say, that whatever malignant type this so-called revolutionary movement may have taken outside of the country, I am certain that in this district, at least, nothing of an aggressive nature has taken place. What movement there is, as I see it, is merely a protest against the existing order of things, called out by the hopes which were offered at Berlin that it should be different, or rather it is an attempt to send up a signal of distress from a ship that is surely sinking. . . . . These people are not a warlike race. They love peace; all that they want is justice and protection in the pursuit of their lawful business, and a chance to grow and become civilized. It is a mistake to think that they long for the rule of Russia.

4. I have only hinted at some of the abuses; I have not spoken of the oppressive tax gathering system, not only in respect to the amount taken, but in the manner of the collection; the cruel beatings, the suspendings from the rafters of the houses, the filling of the mouths of the men with manure, or with viler excrements, the gathering of the women into stables and keeping them there, and threatening them with violation if the money is not paid at a fixed time, and the doing of numerous other things which only the unoccupied brain of a vile Oriental could devise.

5. There is no general massacre to startle Europe, but in the crowded prisons, on the highway, on the mountain-side, and in the plain attending their cattle, or about their work, or from the effects of enforced hunger, more are being brought to death quietly and unobserved than the victims of a general massacre would be.

6. While my work is to help elevate this people intellectually and spiritually, I cannot silently behold their distress, and see them sink and melt away. I can think of only one thing on which those who might help them can be expected to unite. The subjects of this land are not allowed to emigrate. Even a merchant wishing to pass from one district to another must give security to the amount of 50*l.* that he will not go elsewhere, besides having to encounter delay, and use bribery to get his road-passport. Now, I make bold to suggest as a most valuable aid to these poor people that efforts be made to induce the Ambassadors to ask the Government to permit the absolutely free exit of all who wish to go. It should not be an expulsion, but the people should be allowed the choice of staying or not. It seems to me that all might unite in attempting to secure this boon.

No. 98.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 167.)
Constantinople, April 15, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 41 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that one Armenian has been hanged and fifteen sentenced to death by the Court-martial at Yuzgat.

I also annex an extract from a private letter of Mr. Cumberbatch respecting Zirar Caloust, the Armenian who was hanged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, April 9, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd March, I have the honour to report that the Armenian, Morouk *alias* Manouk, the alleged chief of the band of so-called brigands, whose capture was reported in my afore-mentioned despatch, was hanged at Yuzgat on the 4th instant, in accordance with the sentence of the Court-martial, confirmed by the Government.

By Armenians here he is identified as a certain Zirar Caloust, whose name figures frequently, in conjunction with that of Andon Rechtouni, as a revolutionary agent in the Cesarea and Everek districts in the *procès-verbal* of the Angora trial of last year as will be seen by the inclosed Memorandum.

The fact of his having been captured at the head of a band of Armenians disguised as Georgians, in a district under martial law, is advanced as a justification of his summary trial and the speedy execution of the sentence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Memorandum.

REFERENCES to Zirar Caloust (*alias* Manouk, *alias* Mallouk, *alias* Mardiros) in the *procès-verbal* of the Angora trial of 1893.

The Public Prosecutor in his summing up refers to Zirar Caloust as follows:

"According to information received Zirar Caloust was, like A. Rechtouni, an agent of the Revolutionary Committees in Europe, and had travelled all over the districts of Sivas and Cesarea with the object of seditious propaganda, thus making himself the principal propagator of seditious ideas at Cesarea and its environs.

The following prisoners, who were tried at Angora in 1893 on revolutionary charges, are shown to have declared, either in Court or before the examining Judges, as follows:—

Mardiros (preacher) and Agop Pehlou, that Zirar was an emissary of the London Committee, who conferred with them and encouraged them to redouble their efforts on behalf of the movement.

Andon Rechtouni, that he had several interviews with Zirar, and handed him six seditious placards to be posted up at Everek.

Djebidelikian Agop, that he assisted in deliberations with Zirar as to comprising Kemerek within the Cesarea Committee's control.

Deukmedjian Parsekh, that Zirar assisted in deliberations with A. Rechtouni at the monastery near Cesarea (Dérek Vank) when the placards were distributed.

Monk Daniel, that Zirar assembled with others at the monastery where seditious matters were discussed, that he made Zirar and Rechtouni postpone their departure

from the monastery owing to the attack on the Thalass mail, and that Zirar was accompanied to Everek by the servant of the monastery.

Sinan Oglou Archak, that Zirar was hidden in a closet of a house he visited, and that he knew Zirar was a revolutionary leader in hiding.

Agop Pehlou, that Zirar proposed that he should take part in the seditious movement, that he met him at the monastery, with Rechtouni and others, where seditious matters were discussed.

Chevarch, that he remembered Zirar in connection with the placards.

Mardiros (preacher), that Zirar spoke to him about the Revolutionary Committee, and proposed that he should take part, that placards were sent to his (Mardiros') brother-in-law at Kemerek by Zirar, that he heard from others that Zirar was organizing a Revolutionary Committee.

Missak, that he met Zirar at the monastery with Rechtouni and others, and that their departure was postponed owing to the news of the attack on the Thalass mail.

Zarokian Toros, of Gurun, that he took placards from Artin Thoumaian to Zirar at Kemerek.

Khazaros Oglou Kirkor, that he met Zirar and saw him having secret conversations with the woman Zourpik (prisoner) on the eve of the posting of the seditious placards.

Eschki Oglou Saghatiel, that he met Zirar at the monastery, and he proposed that he should join the Revolutionary Committee.

Hanpar, that he heard Zirar frequently visited the monastery, travelled about in connection with the organization of revolutionary measures, and often came to Everek, where he conferred with others.

Aladjadjian Garabet and four others, in a joint deposition, that in consequence of a letter from them Zirar came to confer as to the line of conduct to be pursued, and it was decided that Zirar was to communicate with certain villages as to their sending delegates.

Papasian Kéropé, that he wrote to Zirar to go and see Rechtouni at the monastery, which he did, that Rechtouni told him that Zirar had been charged with the management of the Cesarea work.

Inclosure 3 in No. 98.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, April 10, 1894.

Sir,

YESTERDAY morning I had the honour to inform your Excellency by telegraph that the Court-martial at Yuzgat had applied to Constantinople the day before for authority to hang, without delay, fifteen Armenians who had been condemned to death.

I also learn that further sentences of great, if not equal, severity are expected to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 98.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

THE man who was hanged at Yuzgat on the 4th instant was Zirar Caloust, who, you will see from the Memorandum attached to my despatch of the 9th April, appears to have been deeply compromised in the agitation of 1892. He is said to have behaved very pluckily before the Court, and to have openly avowed his doings. He is credited with having declared that the revolutionary party is strong and better disciplined than the Turkish army, that they will attain their ends, &c.

Word was sent to me some time ago that he possessed a British passport deposited with the Armenian Council of Yuzgat, and demanded by the Government. I think it must be an American document if not Russian.

Who the men are who have been condemned to death, and for whose immediate execution application has been made, I have not been able to find out yet.

But I understand that other death sentences are to follow. These fifteen men are probably Morouk *alias* Zirar's *soi-disant* brigand companions, against whom it will, I think, be difficult to prove any acts of brigandage, but I hear they have been captured disguised and armed, and that in time of martial law.

These Yuzgat sentences and the "spiriting away" of several Armenians from Yuzgat naturally cause considerable consternation here, and at Yuzgat they are said to have brought about veritable panic.

Owing to the ignorance of officials here and the effective interruption of ordinary modes of communication with Yuzgat, it is an extremely difficult job to obtain reliable information of what is taking place there.

No. 99.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 168.)
Constantinople, April 15, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond transmitting a letter from Dr. Jewett, of Sivas, respecting the posting of Armenian revolutionary placards in that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, April 9, 1894.

Sir,

AN extract of Dr. Jewett's letter of the 31st ultimo is herewith inclosed.

He therein informs us that revolutionary placards have again been posted up at Sivas, and this in spite of the special and exceptional vigilance exercised by the police.

Some fifty persons were arrested, though none of them are said to have been caught in the act. The nature of the placards is given by Dr. Jewett, who mentions, with perhaps less detail than needful, a report to the effect that the Turks were the authors, which, if true, bears out the opinion I ventured at times to express in my despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Sivas, March 31, 1894.

(Extract.)

REVOLUTIONARY placards, about fifty in number, were posted here this week. I will give you the account of it as accurately as I have been able to learn it up to the present.

On Tuesday the Vali notified the Armenian Archbishop that four bad men, one from Yuzgat, one from Amassia, one from Marsovan, and one from Sivasli, had come or were coming to make trouble here. He told him to tell the Armenian community that they must not receive or have anything to do with these bad men. Whoever received them would get the same dose that he had prepared for them.

On Wednesday night seven placards were put up by mistake one night too soon.

Most of the placards were put on mosques and public buildings. On Thursday night the Government took extra precautions to prevent the posting of any more placards. The police were concentrated in the suspected districts. That night forty placards were posted. They say that no one was caught in the act or with placards in his possession.

About fifty to sixty men were arrested. Friday was an Armenian holy day, and a service was held according to custom at the monastery outside the city. The men who went out to the monastery were searched on the road by the police and every one who had any sort of piece of paper in his possession was arrested. Most of these prisoners have been let out.

I have secured a copy of the placard. They are written in Turkish and reproduced by means of a hectograph. It reads as follows:—

"Warning to our dear compatriots. Do you not see that necessary protection of our country and of our rights which the laws provide is taken from us? Do you not see that the officials are openly taking bribes and that the utmost oppression is taking place every side? and also that the Government is using the political question as a weapon against us? Oh! tyranized people, it is unjust. Do not be deceived by the crafty wickedness and untruthfulness of the Government. We must try by all means not to fail to give our attention first to the reform of our country and then to its protection and progress.

"The President of the General Committee,

"BERNARD."

I have an account of the origin of these placards, which, if true, is of great interest.

It is told with great positiveness, and there is some circumstantial evidence to sustain the truth of it. Two Armenians went by appointment to the house of a Turk; there they were met by another Turk. The latter wrote the placards, delivered them to the Armenians present, who subsequently gave them to the Armenians who posted them up. This is what I am told. Of course it would be difficult to get positive proof.

On Thursday a military officer stabbed an Armenian shopkeeper because he objected to letting him have some cloth on credit. The Armenian was not seriously injured and fortunately no serious trouble arose. The officer was arrested.

No. 100.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 173.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the cultivation of tobacco in that district, and the complaints of the inhabitants against the "Régie."

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, April 9, 1894.*

THE "Régie" has of late treated the cultivators of tobacco in this district rather unfairly. In autumn all purchases were stopped, and now extremely low prices are offered. The object is apparently to restrict cultivation, as supply is beyond demand. The produce is left to rot in the warehouses of the "Régie" as the qualities are not fit for export, and contrabandism has been effectually suppressed. The villagers have thus been driven to the verge of despair. Several telegrams were transmitted to the Palace, but to no purpose. Even the Consulate has been asked to be the medium of such communications by wire to the Sultan. Hundreds of plaintiffs held a demonstration before the Government House, to be only counselled patience by the Vali. His Excellency Cadri Bey did not fail to write and wire strongly on the subject to the Porte, but matters remain as they were. The question is one of principle. Is the "Régie" justified in studying only its own interests, and thus reducing tobacco cultivators to a condition little above serfdom?

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 101.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 167 of the 15th April, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the recent sentences of the court-martial at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, April 13, 1894.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday to the effect that eighty Armenians had been condemned by the Yuzgat court-martial to the following sentences: twenty to death, twenty-five to penal servitude for life, and thirty-five to terms of imprisonment varying from five to fifteen years.

It is not quite certain whether the companions of Zirar Caloust, who was hanged on the 4th instant, are included in the above list or not. I am inclined to think that they are.

There must be still four or five Armenians awaiting their trial on charges not immediately connected with the recent troubles at Yuzgat, whilst on the other hand some thirty to forty prisoners have been acquitted.

Important papers, referring to the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry and of the court-martial, have been dispatched from Yuzgat by special messenger, and were due at Constantinople on the 8th instant.

By Imperial Iradé this messenger, a Major, was telegraphically instructed to proceed direct to the Palace without communicating with any one here or in the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, April 13, 1894.*

WITH reference to the Yuzgat sentences, referred to in my preceding despatch of this day's date, I humbly venture to submit the following remarks for your Excellency's appreciation.

The proceedings having been by court-martial it is difficult, if not impossible, to learn with any exactitude what was the precise nature of the several charges brought against the prisoners or on what sort of evidence the convictions were based.

The Government found itself in a difficult position, but it is my conviction that the Court, in pronouncing such severe sentences, has been influenced by the opinion of the Government—based on alarming and misleading reports—that the late troubles at Yuzgat were inspired by revolutionary motives.

I attempted to point out in my despatch of the 22nd December that, though signs of an attempt to resuscitate the seditious movement of 1892 had been visible here and there, the conflict between Christians and Moslems at Yuzgat on the

12th December was caused by fright and foolishness on the part of the former, whilst agitators, not necessarily confined to the Armenian community, seized the opportunity to stir up race hatred for purposes of their own.

Nothing has since come to my knowledge to make me change that opinion, and I venture to add that the subsequent events of the 1st February were due, more than anything else, to this spirit of enmity that had been aroused, aggravated by the harsh measures the Government adopted owing to their too great readiness to throw the entire blame on the Armenians and to their persistence in viewing the disturbances in a revolutionary light, instead of discriminating between what may at the most be called acts of insubordination under provocation and the machinations of "Committee" agents who, with few exceptions, have managed to elude justice.

This is the only way I am able to account for the results of the Commission of Inquiry and the court-martial, so far as I have been able to judge of occurrences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 102.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond containing further details respecting the alleged seditious papers seized at Charshamba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, April 9, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to the last paragraph of my despatch of the 8th ultimo, it may interest your Excellency to know that, from what the Vali has this day told me, the alleged compromising documents discovered at Charshamba, which were examined at Trebizond and transmitted to Constantinople, are of a nature advocating solely the necessity of reforms.

The individuals arrested continue in custody at Samsoon pending instructions from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 103.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 181.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 19, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting a conversation which he had with the Vali of that province respecting the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, April 14, 1894.*

THE Vali had a conversation with me on the Armenian troubles, the substance of which ought, I think, to be confidentially communicated to your Excellency.

Cadri Bey began by deprecating the state of affairs in the inland districts. He was of the opinion that the disorders in question would never end so long as unscrupulous officials were allowed to tyrannize over the Armenians. He had reason to suspect that many of the victims of oppression were well-to-do merchants, whose full coffers only tempted the corrupt agents of Government to acts of cruelty and injustice.

Rapaciousness has thus brought about, unhappily, an abuse of power, an inkling of which must have reached the Palace and the Porte, for two or three months ago a Circular was received by him enjoining caution and forbearance in incriminating Armenians suspected of political offences. The nature of this order accords with my despatch of the 23rd January, and leads me to think that it was issued very likely on the advice of Her Majesty's Embassy.

Every right-minded man, Cadri Bey went on to observe, must abhor such excesses; while the unfortunate sufferers may well be excused for invoking and accepting help against their oppressors from whatever quarter it may come and of whatever nature it may be. Not only has the condition of the Armenians become unbearable, he added, but Turks are beginning to feel in all this a sense of political insecurity.

Radical changes are greatly needed for the country to develop apace in prosperity and civilization. Equality should exist in practice as well as in theory, and differential treatment should once for all be made obsolete.

The Vali ended by praising the Mutessarif of Samsoon. Were it not for Mustapha Nouri Pasha's sense of justice, he remarked, the prisons of the Trebizond vilayet would hold now a considerable number of political suspects. The Governor had fortunately the acuteness to discern that many of the Armenians charged with political crimes at Samsoon were really innocent. Hence it is that the plea of intimidation proffered by the villagers of the Charshamba district was promptly admitted, so that these unmilitant tillers of the soil were allowed to pursue the even tenour of their lives, though rifles were forced upon them and money extorted from them by the emissaries of the Secret Revolutionary Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 104.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 19, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 53 of the 26th February inquiring about the imprisonment of M. Zorian at Diarbekir, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at that town.

I propose to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the circumstances of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Sir P. Currie.

Diarbekir, April 2, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to respectfully acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch respecting the imprisonment of M. Zorian, and instructing me to report on the case and charges brought against him.

Before entering into the details of the case, I have to submit that Mr. Harrison, in his memorial to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is labouring under a delusion in considering that the man imprisoned for political offences is M. Kevork Zorian, for the condemned is Samuel Zorian, the younger brother, aged 25 years.

The case, briefly stated, is as follows.

In August 1892 the Governor-General of this province received a telegram from the Sublime Porte to the effect that a certain Kevork Zorian was in correspondence with the London "Times," upon which his Excellency, Surri Pasha, caused the arrest of the man and ordered that a domiciliary visit should be made by the police, and all the papers and books found should be seized. Nothing whatever was found to substantiate the above accusation and Kevork Zorian was at once released. But among the papers were found a letter, and the copy of another letter, and English periodicals which his brother, Samuel Zorian, owned to belong to himself, which, at the time, were stated to contain treasonable matter. Consequently the younger Zorian was arrested and imprisoned. Nine months after his arrest the accused was brought into the presence of the Appeal Court of this province, where he was judged and sentenced to five years' confinement in a walled town or castle ("kalaband"). This sentence, as far as I have been able to ascertain, was grounded on the following charges:—

First and principal charge: The copy of a letter was found in the possession of the accused, the original of which was addressed by him to Bishop Yeznig, the former Bishop of Arabkir. As I am informed there is nothing disloyal or anything approaching to it in the letter, only vague expressions, such as "You are like the sun and stars shining on the people," &c., but as the letter was addressed to the above-mentioned Bishop, the Court considered, as a matter of course, that it must be treasonable. When the accused was asked to give the reason of his correspondence with the Bishop, he stated, in reply, that during his stay in Diarbekir the Bishop requested him to set to music a certain hymn from the hymnology of the Armenian Church. Some little time after his (the Bishop's) departure he composed the time and forwarded it to him, hence their correspondence. The Court, instead of taking steps to verify the truth of this statement, deduced from it a second charge—that the accused was propagating treasonable ideas among the Armenians by means of musical compositions, although there was nothing before the Court to prove the truth of such an accusation.

In connection with the above paragraph, I have, with your Excellency's permission, to say a few words regarding the Bishop above mentioned. Bishop Yeznig of Arabkir has made himself very notorious in the present political agitation, and was sent to Constantinople fifteen years ago for that cause. Shortly after he returned to his former See, and, I regret to say, pursued the same course more openly, preaching inflammatory sermons in plain words. The excitement of the Turks was so great that at one time there was the danger of a serious complication. The Governor-General of Kharput notified the affair to the Porte, and the Porte, through the Armenian Patriarchate, removed the Bishop to Diarbekir. He has been the cause of ruin and misery to a great many Armenian families in Arabkir and district. His conduct, unfortunately, was similar here in Diarbekir, and the Governor-General took steps to send him to Constantinople, and thence to Jerusalem. From this brief account your Excellency will undoubtedly gather why the authorities, in their anxiety to stamp out this political movement, look upon those who have had anything to do with the Bishop in question, rightly or wrongly, with great suspicion.

The third charge preferred against Samuel Zorian is having in his possession a highly objectionable Armenian national song contained in a letter addressed to him by an Armenian in the United States of America six or seven years ago.

The fourth and last accusation brought against the condemned man was having in his possession copies of the "Sunday at Home," and two other English periodicals. One number of the first-named bearing date 1882, contained a letter written by an English tourist, which was considered detrimental to the Turkish Government. It is indeed regrettable that such a letter was ever published, as it referred to the usage of old times when the Judges used to issue permits of an insulting character for burying Christians. The issue of such permits was prohibited about forty years ago by a special Edict from the illustrious father of His Imperial Majesty the present Sultan. The correspondent of the said article was evidently under the impression that these permits were still in use.

From the above statement your Excellency will undoubtedly perceive that the punishment assigned to Samuel Zorian is rather more severe than he deserves, even

from the present point of view of the Government, as he neither published anything, nor was he found in any revolutionary Committee. It was hoped that the sentence would have been cancelled by the Court of Cassation, but unfortunately for him it was confirmed, and consequently Samuel was confined in a most unhealthy department of the prison where the worst of criminals are kept. Not being of a strong constitution his health began to give way.

In a friendly interview with the Governor-General a month since I called his attention to the case, pointing out that in accordance with the regulations he should not be confined with the criminals. Thereupon, I have the satisfaction to state that his Excellency gave orders for his removal to a more healthy department, where debtors only are confined, and I have to remark that he is very comfortable there, and receives kind treatment at the hands of the prison authorities.

With reference to my having given certain numbers of the "Sunday at Home" to Zorian's father, I have to state that it is absolutely untrue. The fact is that, in 1882, the prisoner's brother, Kevork Zorian, was desirous of subscribing for the said periodical, and having no means of remitting the money in England, he came to my wife and asked her to get it for him. She, out of kindness, did so, and they continued to receive the periodicals directly and regularly for three years.

In accordance with your Excellency's instructions I return the inclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 105.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 21, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 174 of the 17th instant, and previous correspondence respecting the state of Yuzgat, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting the proceedings of the court-martial at Yuzgat, and the arrest of the Protestant pastor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, April 16, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 9th, 10th, and 13th instant, I have the honour to report that I have this day received a visit from an acquaintance of mine who has just arrived from Yuzgat, and confirms the news contained in those despatches.

He says that, in addition to the sentences mentioned therein, several Armenians have been exiled from Yuzgat, and several more, recently arrested, are awaiting their trial.

According to him the proceedings of the Court were most summary, and not even the semblance of a fair trial was attempted. He adds that Mustapha Pasha, as well as the other officers forming the Court, have shown a most hostile and vindictive disposition, and appeared prompted by a desire to swell the list of condemnations.

No communication of their findings had been made to the prisoners when he left Yuzgat, as confirmation from Constantinople was being awaited, but his opinion is that, of the twenty individuals condemned to death, fifteen were companions and suspected accomplices of Zirar Caloust, who, among other things, were charged with having been implicated in the assassination of two informers at Ak-dagh Maden in November last. The other five are found guilty of having taken part in the disturbances of the 12th December and the 2nd February. The twenty-five persons sentenced to penal servitude for life are prominent members of the Protestant and Gregorian communities, accused of having been promoters of the so-called seditious

troubles, and the remaining thirty-five are Armenians arrested in connection with the events at Yuzgat and other places in that district.

Only two Turks were known to be under arrest for participation in the recent conflicts, but whether they will be brought to trial is a matter of doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Angora, April 18, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Protestant Armenian preacher at Yuzgat, Karékin Effendi Koundouradjian, has been recently arrested. The exact charge against him is not known, but it is reported that his imprisonment was instigated by the Armenian Bishop of Cæsarea, who has been at Yuzgat recently, and whose conduct can only be accounted for by a desire on his part to throw as much blame as possible on the Protestants, in the hope of bettering the lot of his co-religionists.

I am endeavouring to procure further information about this case, which I venture, in the meantime, to call your Excellency's attention to, as it is my impression that Karékin Effendi's connection with the American Missions has much to do with his arrest, and that if he was allowed a proper trial he would have more chance of acquittal than he is likely to have before the court-martial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 105*.

Mr. Stevenson, M.P., to Foreign Office.—(Received April 27.)

House of Commons, April 26, 1894.

Dear Grey,

CAN anything definite be ascertained with regard to Hohannes Papoyan, who in January of this year was in prison at Amasia, having been sentenced a few weeks before to ten years' hard labour? There is reason to believe that he has been removed elsewhere. He appears to be absolutely innocent of any offence, and the case is one of peculiar hardship. If the Foreign Office would endeavour to secure a remission of the sentence, their good offices would be of the greatest value.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) F. S. STEVENSON.

No. 106.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 138.)
Foreign Office, April 27, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 182 of the 19th instant, inclosing copy of a Report from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir with regard to the imprisonment in that town of M. Zorian.

I approve your Excellency's intention of calling the attention of the Porte to the circumstances of this case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 107.

Foreign Office to International Arbitration and Peace Association.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1894.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, urging that steps may be taken to ameliorate the condition of the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey.

I am to state that the question receives the attention of Her Majesty's Government, as will be seen from the answers given in the House of Commons by the Under-Secretary of State.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 108.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1894.

MR. CHANNING, M.P., will ask a question in the House of Commons on the 3rd instant as to the result of your Excellency's representations to the Turkish Government respecting the death sentences passed on Armenians at Yuzgat.

What reply would you suggest?

No. 109.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May* 2, 1894, 12·20 P.M.

I HAVE communicated with Foreign Minister, who promises further information to-morrow, but who, in the meanwhile, concurs in following answer to question contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 27:—

"The sentences are still under examination. No decision has yet been taken, but there is every reason to hope that, except in cases of assassination, the Sultan will exercise his clemency and commute the death sentences."

No. 110.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 144.)
Foreign Office, May 2, 1894.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith copy of a letter from Mr. F. S. Stevenson, M.P.,* invoking the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in the case of Hohannes Papoyan, who is stated to have been imprisoned in January last at Amassia, and since removed elsewhere, after being sentenced to ten years' hard labour, although innocent of any offence.

I have to request that your Excellency will make inquiries, and if the facts prove to be as stated, that you will represent the matter to the Porte, with a view to a reconsideration of the sentence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

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* No. 105*.

No. 111.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 5, 1894, 11·30 A.M.*

I SPOKE to Grand Vizier on the subject of Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat five days ago in sense of your Lordship's instructions, but in very guarded and conciliatory terms. I hear that the Sultan has during the last few days been again most violent in his language against the Armenians, and against us for interfering on their behalf.

I am sending to your Lordship by to-day's post a despatch which I have just received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora. It gives the substance of a letter from a correspondent at Yuzgat, and was brought by a messenger whom I instructed Mr. Cumberbatch to send there. It shows that accused were not allowed to defend themselves, that false accusations were brought against them, that they were browbeaten, threatened, and insulted by the President in open Court.

These statements Mr. Consul Cumberbatch believes to be true.

No. 112.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 188.) *Pera, April 25, 1894.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that the Armenian village of Talor in the Government of Bitlis was attacked by Kurds last year, and that the aggressors have been allowed to escape, whereas several Armenians were arrested on the charge of being in revolt. I have brought the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.) *Erzeroum, April 9, 1894.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a Confidential despatch which I have received from the Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting the circumstances under which the village of Talor in the Bitlis Vilayet was attacked and plundered by Kurds of the Rushkatan and Bekiran tribes, apparently about the end of last summer, and several of the inhabitants killed.

Your Excellency will perceive from Mr. Boyajian's account that Armenians only, though belonging to the aggrieved party, were arrested by the Mutessarif of Genge in connection with this affair, and I learn privately that two or three of these unfortunates have died in prison, while the condition of the villagers who fled in terror to the mountains and passed the winter there must be deplorable. On the other hand, no effective measures seem to have been taken to punish the real culprits, although the case has occupied the attention of the Sublime Porte for some time past.

It is true that the Mutessarif in question, Mustafa Pasha, has been dismissed, but I fear that no great amendment is to be expected under his successor, Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha, whose evil reputation formed the subject of my despatch of the 9th December, 1893.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

(Confidential.) *Diarbekir, March 16, 1894.*

Sir,

SOON after my return to Diarbekir, a shocking affair, which caused a considerable sensation at the time, came to my knowledge, and I have been working since to obtain the true and detailed account of it, but did not succeed till lately. I have now the honour to submit to you the following for your information.

On the border of the Silivan Caza, but within the jurisdiction of the Vilayet of Bitlis, there are close to each other three villages, inhabited exclusively by an Armenian population, surrounded and habitually harassed by the ferocious Rushkatan and Bekiran tribes. Last summer a few of these Kurds repaired to Talor—one of the above-stated villages—on pretence of purchasing cattle. It would appear that while there, for an unknown reason, a quarrel broke out among themselves, in which one of their companions was killed, and, in order to exact a large sum of money, they united to charge the crime upon the Armenians, to which unjust exaction the latter did not submit. Enraged at this affront, the Kurds went to the Sheikh of Zileh, and, with the intention of arousing the anger of the said Sheikh, invented the following calumnious story: that the Armenians of Talor had seized his (the Sheikh's) brother, maltreated him and forced wine down his throat, and thus polluted him, &c. This story, as you will perceive, had the desired effect, for the Sheikh, feeling naturally very angry, sent orders at once to his followers, commanding them to go and punish the said Armenians, upon which, I am told, about 2,000 Kurds responded to the call and started for the village in question, the Sheikh also following them. Meanwhile, the Armenians, having been informed of the coming danger, sent word to the Armenians in Susoon, explaining their precarious situation, and begging them to come to their assistance. Upon this a considerable number of men, I am told about 300, came and stayed in Talor six or seven days, waiting the arrival of the aggressors. But for one reason or another these Kurds delayed, and as there was not sufficient provision in the village to feed such a number of people they left, and a few days after the Kurds appeared and attacked the village. In this affray eight men and one woman of the Armenians and three of the Kurds were killed. But while the Sheikh was nearing the scene of the tragedy he thought to send a messenger to his brother, who at the time was with his flock in a neighbouring mountain, to ascertain the truth of the facts which he was told by the Kurds. To his great surprise, his brother sent him word that all that he had heard was false, and that the Armenians of Talor had always been kind to him; moreover, he begged his brother not to do any injury to them. Soon after receiving this message he sent orders to the Kurds to the effect that they should withdraw, and not molest the villagers, but it was too late, for the mischief was already done and the village plundered. Having been informed of the affair, the Governor of the Genge Sandjak, Mustafa Pasha, arrived at Talor, together with some forces, arrested several of the leading Armenians and sent them to Bitlis, reporting as was understood to the Governor-General that the Armenians in the village were in revolt, while, as my informant tells me, not one of the Kurds, the authors of the mischief, has been captured, and I must not omit to state that whatever little property remained upon which the Kurds could not lay hands was carried away by those whose duty it was to protect it. The Armenians, on learning the report of the Mutessarif, felt apprehensive of a greater calamity, and withdrew with their families to an inaccessible mountain fastness, where they remained during the winter, and still continue. How they secured their provisions, how they spent their time in the rigour of the season without shelter, or what their fate will be hereafter, no one can tell.

I must add that, from a private source, I have been informed that correspondence on the subject passed between the Sublime Porte and the Governor-General of this vilayet, and it appears that the reply of his Excellency Sturi Pasha did not support the statement of the Governor of Genge—hence the deposition of the latter.

I have also to remark that the above-mentioned Sheikh, who is not really a Sheikh, is a very mischievous person, has caused the murder of several Armenians and Moslems, and ruined some villages. Orders for his capture have been sent from Constantinople to the Governor-General of Bitlis, but without effect. Such orders have recently arrived to the Governor-General of this vilayet, both from his Highness

the Grand Vizier and the Minister of the Interior, but I do not believe that the Sheikh will be captured, as he lives within the jurisdiction of the Bitlis Province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 113.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 168 of the 15th instant and previous correspondence respecting the state of Sivas, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, inclosing a letter from Dr. Jewett concerning Armenian affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, April 20, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Dr. Jewett, giving some information on state of affairs in the Sivas Vilayet, and reporting the capture of the Armenian revolutionist, Haratoun Thoumayian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Sivas, April 15, 1894.

Dear Sir,

ALTHOUGH the air is full of rumours, and the Armenians seem to feel that something favourable to them is soon to occur, there is not much to report.

During the past week the Vali collected the long knives, swords, and daggers from the local shops, and prohibited the cutlers from making any more. His Excellency says it is simply a matter of precaution taken by all civilized countries, and such instruments of defence and offence are unnecessary here.

At Marsovan a few days ago a son of Crimbolu, who was killed, it is supposed, by the Committà, was shot at, but not seriously injured.

Haratoun Thoumayian, a cousin of Professor Thoumayian, was captured at Amassia about two weeks ago. He was slightly wounded, and his companion was killed in the fight which occurred when they were captured, and one zaptieh was killed. Haratoun Thoumayian has long been known as a bad young fellow, and it is probable that he has had considerable to do with recent affairs and disturbances at Marsovan and Amassia. He is said to be very mad that the Armenians did not rally and fight for his defence, and it is reported that he will make some interesting revelations before he is executed.

It is said that Imperial clemency has been extended to political prisoners, but I observe no signs of it, and I do not know that there is any foundation for the statement.

I heard yesterday that some serious affair had occurred at Erzeroum, and I am anxious to learn the facts in regard to it.

Nothing of importance followed the posting of placards here on the 28th and 29th March. The Vali expresses the opinion that it was the work of a single Armenian, but the common people seem honestly to believe that it was done by Turks. Of course, it is for their advantage to express that opinion, but some of them at least seem really to think so.

Only one of those arrested in connection with that affair remains in prison. I am told that on the second night when placards were put up, the Military Commander ordered the soldiers to arrest every person found in the streets at night, and that, in consequence, several Turks, including the Director of the Military School, and some others of the privileged class, were arrested.

I have postponed the date of my departure, and I think now that I will not leave until the 1st June.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

No. 114.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 1, 1894.*

I TOOK advantage of a visit which the Grand Vizier paid me on the 29th ultimo to speak to His Highness in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 169 A of the 9th April.

I urged him to use his influence to prevent the carrying out of the capital sentences pronounced at Yuzgat, and warned him of the effect that would be produced in England if the executions were allowed to take place.

At the same time, I argued that the real interests of the Ottoman Empire would be promoted by a policy of conciliation.

I have on several occasions communicated to the Grand Vizier extracts of the Reports which I receive from the provinces, and I expressed a hope that they might be of use in enabling him to check those of the Ottoman functionaries. He assured me that he was glad to receive these communications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 115.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 141 of the 31st March and previous correspondence respecting the right of native Protestants to freedom of worship in the Ottoman Empire, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that my representations have had a satisfactory result as far as concerns the community at Ordou. The Grand Vizier has ordered instructions to be sent to the Vali of Trebizond that the Protestants of that town are to be allowed to continue their worship in a private house until a site for a church is granted, and I have ascertained that a telegram in this sense has been already dispatched from the Ministry of the Interior.

The Agent of the Protestant Vekil has stated that he is satisfied with this arrangement.

With regard to the other localities—Fatsa, Agun, and Inojk—the Grand Vizier has assured Her Majesty's Embassy that he is still engaged in making inquiries, and hopes to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 116.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 3, 1894.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 27 of the 1st May, I sent Mr. Block to Said Pasha to ask if he had any information to give me respecting the fate of the Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat. He replied that no decision had been taken, and suggested the terms of the answer which I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday.

He promised a further reply after he should have communicated with the Sultan, and late last night he sent for Mr. Block, who at once called upon him at his private house.

The result of the interview is reported in the inclosed Memorandum by Mr. Block.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Memorandum from Mr. Block.

IN accordance with Saïd Pasha's desire, I called upon him yesterday evening, and he gave me copy of the Sultan's message to him through the Private Secretary concerning the Armenians condemned to death at Yuzgat. This is in consequence of the representations I made to Saïd Pasha yesterday upon Lord Kimberley's telegram of the 1st May. I may add that I endeavoured to ascertain how many Armenians were condemned for murder and assassination, but Saïd Pasha said neither he nor the Grand Vizier could tell, but he assured me that the Sultan would do nothing likely to create complications "brusquer les choses." I inclose translation of the message to Saïd Pasha from the Sultan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Message from His Majesty the Sultan to Saïd Pasha.

(Translation.)

IN no country in the world would evil-doers, who commit murder, be treated with clemency or be pardoned, nor in Turkey would it be possible also to grant pardon to such individuals; but owing to the sense of clemency which animates His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and which is renowned throughout the world, it may be possible to act with clemency towards the other condemned persons.

No. 117.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 9.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Angora, April 30, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35, Confidential, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to send your Excellency some further details on the subject of the proceedings of the court-martial at Yuzgat, which I have obtained from an informant of that place whom I have so far found reliable enough.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Letter from Yuzgat to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Translation.)

April 24, 1894.

(Extract.)

THE number of witnesses (Turkish) brought forward by the authorities to support the false accusations concocted by Mussulmans against Armenians, in connection with the incident of the 12th December, was at first 300 to 400, but the ex-Public Prosecutor, Arif Bey, perceiving that if the presence of so many Turks at the church was admitted, it would tell against the Government, reduced their number to fifty, and divided them into four groups to hear witness to as many different charges.

He took down no Armenian's evidence, but did his work just as seemed best to him, and drew up a *procès-verbal* which was remitted to the Court. At the trial every

Armenian who figured in the *procès-verbal* as "committed" on suspicion of being guilty was placed apart by himself, and the aforesaid witnesses, in groups of fifteen, were ranged up in front of him. The President then putting the question, "Have you seen this fellow?" one of the witnesses would answer, "I have seen him with revolver and yataghan in hand." Thereupon the other witnesses would confirm his statement merely by a nod, some perhaps adding, "It was exactly as Kiamil Agha has described it."

This mode of procedure was continued all through.

If in defence a prisoner dared cite an Article of the Law, or make any objection to the witnesses, he was reprimanded in their presence with words to this effect: These men are Mussulmans, and faithful men; if their depositions were to incriminate us even we would admit their statements without question. What do you think, you infidel Armenians? You made light of the Mussulmans, and every one of you became a lion. You put in your petition that justice was dead, are you sure you buried it? You see the Islam nation is great.

With such and endless other similar sayings the Court refused to listen to the Armenians, and cut their words short by saying, "Don't trouble yourselves, I decline to accept what you are going to say. It is untrue, it is a false accusation, is it? Here, it has been written, sign it," and made them sign the *procès-verbal*.

On account of the unmistakable animosity existing between the Turks and the Armenians, and especially in consequence of the Fetva emanating from the Mufti, that "it is lawful to kill, assault, pillage, and falsely accuse the men who oppose the Government," the whole Mussulman population is ready to come forward and bear false witness against the Armenians. This being so, not a word is allowed to be said as to the accusations being false, and some prisoners have added to their signatures the words, "My defence has not been heard." No oath has been administered to the witnesses, nor has their cross-examination taken place, while the *procès-verbal* is full of false statements from beginning to end.

As a result of the conflicts of Friday, the 21st January (2nd February), forty-two Armenians were wounded, arrested, and cast into prison. The police worked hard to attach some sort of blame to each one of them, and procured false witnesses in support of these accusations. For instance, Tashdji Hadjatour Ousta, a man of 82 years old, and hardly able to walk, was arrested whilst walking in the streets, on the allegation that he carried a revolver and yataghan. It must be presumed that his life was spared in prison on account of his old age, but he was wounded, and died about a month afterwards.

Kevonian Hovannes, 70, was wounded and imprisoned because it was alleged that he had inquired about the number of the military force with evil intentions.

As regards the remaining forty prisoners, various ways had been tried, and their cases had undergone various turns, when ultimately a Lieutenant named Hadji Emin, with four or five soldiers and zaptiehs, were brought forward as witnesses.

They accused the lot *en bloc* of having opposed the soldiers with arms, whilst it is a curious fact that not a single soldier or Mussulman had so much as a bleeding nose.

Thoumaian Binon having complained to the Court that his house had been fired into, three or four soldiers were brought forward to depose that he had a revolver on him when arrested, but these witnesses having shown some disagreement as to having seen the revolver, the Pashas ordered Thoumaian Binon and his companions out of the room for half-an-hour, and on their return the witnesses were found to be of one accord on the points as to which they had previously disagreed, and they shouted out, "Yes, we saw him with a revolver in his hand."

The above-mentioned Lieutenant Hadji Emin and the soldiers having deposed that Kevonian Semakkérim had shown armed opposition to the soldiers, the President, addressing the Lieutenant, said, "Why did you not pierce him with your bayonet while bringing him here? Had you done so, you would now have been a Captain." Thereupon the said Semakkérim replied, "Effendim, order him to bayonet me now, and you will be able to promote him at once." The Pasha grew furious, and ordered him to be sent back to prison.

The interrogation of the other prisoners was conducted under similar conditions, and after an imprisonment of five or six weeks on the pretext that their wounds had to be attended to, they were allowed out on bail as "suspected" persons, after being made to sign an undertaking never to leave their native town, and to give themselves up if wanted by the Government.

Tekiryan Artin, lawyer, Papazian Krikor, and Salakian Nazaret were arrested for having dared to present to the Court a Petition sealed with the official seals of the

Protestant and Gregorian communities. They were committed for trial as "suspected" persons, and during the proceedings Tekiryan Artin Effendi expressed astonishment that whereas in their petition they considered themselves as the complainants, they found themselves in the place of defendants; instead of seeing the law administered against the perpetrators of the misdeeds, they had been the victims.

He further maintained that the Government, in complicity with the Mussulman people, had plotted the extermination of the Armenians, and had invented the false accusations. Upon hearing this, the President of the Court, after grossly insulting and menacing him, said, "As for you, witnesses are not necessary, your present conduct is enough to condemn you to death." Artin Effendi was not allowed to proceed any further in his own defence, his attempt at which was considered a sign of sedition.

Nahabet Effendi, lawyer, likewise refused to sign the *procès-verbal* because his defence was not listened to. He consequently became the victim of the wrath of Mustapha Pasha, who sprang towards him with the intention of striking him and coercing him into signing the *procès-verbal*.

During the trial of Meshlahdjian Arédis, the presiding Pasha said, "What did you fellows think? Did you think that the Government was weak? Did you attempt these deeds relying on England? Take care! I shall exterminate you all. What can England do? She can only attack and bombard Smyrna, what else can she do?" In this style he went on indulging in abusive language against England and also against Russia, saying, "Go, all of you, to the land of the blind Muscovite."

In the case of others whom they had decided upon condemning to death, the following device was used. By every means of pressure and torture, two Captains and the Chief Guard of the prison prevailed upon the man called Morouk, *alias* Zirar, who had recently been caught and hanged on the 24th March (5th April) as a president of a committee, to declare that he had spent the night in the houses of several Armenians who were named to him, and to say that he knew others whose names were mentioned to him as being committeemen.

The afore-mentioned lawyer, Nahabet, having been thus accused, asked Zirar to describe his house or the room he slept in, but Zirar was only able to reply, "I can't go into those details, I leave that matter to the Pasha, he may give you the details you want."

It was perhaps in fear of similar exposals of false declarations, extracted by force out of Zirar, that the execution of the latter was so hastily carried out.

No. 118.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 207.)
Constantinople, May 4, 1894.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 112 of the 10th ultimo, on the subject of the imprisoned Armenian Archbishops of Zeitoun and Marash, I have the honour to state that I do not consider the present moment to be a very favourable one for moving in the matter. I propose, however, to approach the Porte on the first favourable opportunity with a view of obtaining a mitigation of their sentences.

The Bishop of Arabkir is, I am informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, an active member of the revolutionary party, and, together with the well-known Schimavon, was the principal cause of all the troubles in Arabkir and the neighbourhood. He was sent to Diarbekir, and within a short space of time began to stir up the people, and was quietly removed by Surri Pasha. The Armenians themselves were grateful for the measure, as they consider that he was a cause of great loss and mischief to them.

A fuller account of the Bishop of Arabkir will be found in the despatch No. 447 of the 22nd October, 1891, from this Embassy to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Under the circumstances I do not think that Her Majesty's Government would wish to interfere on his behalf.

The Bishop of Hadjin appears to be a comparatively unknown man, and I propose to include his name in any representations I may make to the Porte on behalf of the Bishops of Zeitoun and Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 119.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 156 A.)
Foreign Office, May 9, 1894.

Sir,

I HAD an interview to-day with the Turkish Ambassador, when I handed to his Excellency an extract from Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's despatch No. 35, a copy of which accompanied your Excellency's despatch No. 183 of the 21st ultimo, with respect to the alleged summary proceedings of the court-martial at Yuzgat.

Rustem Pasha promised that he would communicate the information contained therein to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 120.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 158.)
Foreign Office, May 11, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 200 of the 2nd instant, informing me that instructions have been sent to the Vali of Trebizond insuring freedom of worship to the Protestants of Ordou, and that the Grand Vizier has hopes of a satisfactory solution of this question in other localities where complaints have arisen.

I have to express my satisfaction at the result of the representations made by Her Majesty's Embassy in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 121.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 159.)
Foreign Office, May 11, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 188 of the 25th ultimo relative to a Kurdish attack on the Armenian village of Talor in the Bitlis Vilayet, and the arrest of some of the leading Armenians by the Governor of the Genge Sandjak on the unfounded charge of revolt.

I approve your Excellency's action in bringing this matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 122.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
Constantinople, May 9, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 208 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, inclosing a Memorandum on the state of affairs at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Angora, May 5, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum containing details about a journey to Yuzgat and back which have been related to me by a person who has just been there, and whose statements are worthy of credence. They are interesting as showing the present state of affairs at Yuzgat, and corroborate information I have already had the honour of furnishing to Her Majesty's Embassy in previous despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Narrative of Journey to Yuzgat and back, April 1894.

M. E., an Armenian, after encountering great difficulties in connection with the delivery of a passport, and the refusal of the police to give him permission to carry fire-arms, left Angora on the 17th April, on the pretext of searching in the Maden district for minerals. At Kalendjik, twelve hours off, he disguised himself as a Mussulman Turk, and borrowed a gun, revolver, and sword from friends.

He relates that, "at Denek Maden, on the 20th April, I met a man who said, 'My son, it is quite impossible to get into Yuzgat,' but on my insisting, he gave me valuable advice about my route, and furnished me with the name of a trustworthy friend to whose house I could go. Our interview was at night, because the police supervision of travellers' movements was very strict.

"On the 21st I exchanged my travelling coat for a common 'aba' overcoat, and left all my extra clothing at a friend's. I arrived at Aivali, where I was subjected to a police interrogation. I gave the name of 'Ibrahim Tchaoush,' and said I was in search of coal. At all the villages I passed through I had to submit to interrogations. I met very few travellers, and these were Mussulmans. On the 22nd April, at Bel-Kavak, I met a Turk who had just arrived from Yuzgat; he gave me an account of the conflicts there."

[This man's version corroborated the reports about these occurrences sent to Her Majesty's Embassy in previous despatches, and supports the Armenian allegations of premeditation on the part of the Turks.]

"That man also told me that as Yuzgat was under martial law there were soldiers all over the place, that Mustapha Pasha and his officers were always to be seen on the mounds near the road leading into the town to watch who went in and out, that no Christian was allowed to enter even if provided with a passport. In the morning of the 23rd I left Bel-Kavak and came to a village (Greek), where I buried my gun and revolver under a heap of stones. At Pamboujak, two hours from Yuzgat, I was very closely interrogated. I said that my provisions had run short, and that I wanted to buy some things in Yuzgat. At an hour's distance from Yuzgat I buried my sword and my saddle-bags. I entered Yuzgat early that afternoon, 23rd April, and passed two detachments of troops; further on I met four cavalrymen on foot armed with rifles. Turning down a side street I saw two Armenians sitting on the roof of a house. I greeted them with 'Akshamlar hair olsoun' (this is the form of greeting in Turkish between Christians) and nodded to them. They understood my sign and hurried down to me. I gave one of them a tip, and asked him to show me the house of D. G., a priest; one of them took my horse and hid it away, the other one hurried me to D. G.'s house. He was not at home, but when he came in and found me there he exclaimed, 'My son, we are bound by our written engagement to report any stranger that comes to our quarter; if we do not report we would be put to death; if your arrival is heard of both of us are lost, get up and go wherever you like.' I sent word to K. T., who replied that I could come to him. Being assured that there were no police or soldiers in the street, I was conducted to his house. He was very anxious, and asked the man who brought me whether any one knew of my arrival, and whether any one had seen me coming to his house, because, he said, we were all lost if the authorities knew of my being there. I told him who I was and the purport of my visit. He sent for the two

other persons whom I had been told to communicate with, and they duly arrived, but as I had buried all my papers with my saddle-bags and had nothing to show them except my 'teskérés,' they were reluctant to trust me. But they told me to rest there; after consulting that night among themselves they reassembled the next day, 24th April, in K. T.'s house. Whilst discussing the risks of sending a written document, which might fall into the hands of the authorities, the man who was keeping watch in the yard called K. T. out of the room, and on his return he said that some other Armenians had heard that a man had come from the Consul, and as that proved that my arrival was known I had better hurry away."

M. E. here recounts what these three persons told him as to the incidents of the 12th December and the 1st and 2nd February, and the subsequent events. Their version tallies with the accounts reported to Her Majesty's Embassy. Though they said that they had been unable to find out anything as to the number and the nature of the sentences of the court-martial, they fully corroborated the statements contained in the letter inclosed in my despatch of the 30th April, which in fact was written by one of them; concerning the proceedings of the Court, they further alleged that, in order to extract admissions of guilt, prisoners had been tortured in various ways, and that money had been extorted on a large scale.

They distinctly accused the Armenian Bishop of Cæsarea of having caused the imprisonment of the Protestant preacher and several other respectable men at Yuzgat, whom he denounced as accomplices of Zirar Calousd, *alias* Morouk, who was hanged on the 5th April, and whose hiding-place the said Bishop had divulged.

They then gave an account of the manner in which this individual (Morouk) and his band were captured, all armed, and how 175*l.* were found on him, 28*l.* on one and 5*l.* on another of his companions. That he vainly pleaded to be tried at Constantinople, but was hanged after being subjected to tortures (see despatch of the 9th April). They said that the number of Armenians that had been imprisoned so far was 310 (of whom 6 were priests), viz., 223 from Yuzgat itself, 75 from the surrounding villages, and 12, just arrived, from Soungourlou. They gave an extremely deplorable account of the state of things in the crowded prisons.

M. E. left Yuzgat on the 25th April without being questioned; he reached Denek-Maden on the 27th, having, in the meantime, recovered his arms and saddle-bags. At this place he procured information about the Armenians who have been recently tried at Kir-Shéir on the charge of having posted placards at Denek-Maden (see despatch of the 6th November, 1893), and reached Angora on the 29th April.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Angora, May 5, 1894.

No. 123.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 95.)

St. Petersburgh, May 10, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a précis-translation by Mr. Michell of an article of the "Exchange Gazette" on the subject of recent Orders issued by the Chief of the Civil Administration of the Caucasus respecting native emigration out of the Tersk region to Turkey. No reason is given for these Orders, but, as Mr. Michell states, the probable object is to get rid gradually of the hostile and turbulent Mussulman population in that region, and eventually replace it by more docile and pliant immigrants of Russian or even Armenian nationality of the Christian faith.

The article likewise treats of the difficulty of suppressing crime in the Tersk region, and gives the opinions expressed by the various Imperial Ministries concerned as to the best means to be adopted in that regard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Précis of Article in the "Exchange Gazette" of May 9, 1894.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to the "Exchange Gazette," Count Sheremetieff, the Chief of the Civil Administration of the Caucasus, has issued orders to the effect that permission to emigrate into Turkey should not be withheld from the natives of the Tersk region of the Caucasus.

General Kukhanoff, Commander of the Tersk region, has accordingly laid down certain rules for such migration, the most important of which is that it should be quite voluntary. No additional burdens of taxation are to be imposed on those who remain behind, and natives who have once formally declared their intention to the Russian authorities of emigrating to Turkey will not be allowed to change their minds, and will be expatriated if necessary. They will, moreover, after emigration, not be allowed to return to their former homes. The lands vacated by the emigrants will be allotted to mountaineers from other *aüls*, and the lands remaining unoccupied after such redistribution will fall to the Crown. The cost of emigration will be borne by the emigrants, and no Government aid for the purpose will be awarded.

In order to put an end to the robberies, deeds of violence, and other crimes so prevalent among the natives of the Tersk region, the Ministry of War is of opinion that all mountaineers frequently suspected of having been guilty of various offences, and enjoying generally a bad reputation, should be placed under special surveillance of the police, and punished, when necessary, by the infliction of a maximum quantity of 100 blows of the rod. The Ministry of the Interior, however, considers that such a measure can be sanctioned only in case it is in accordance with the patriarchal customs of the natives, and carried out by the communal Elders, without the participation of the Administrative authorities. The Ministry of Justice shares in this respect the opinion of the Ministry of the Interior.

A more desirable measure would seem to be the disarmament of the natives. No reason is assigned by the "Exchange Gazette" for the rules adopted with a view to facilitating native emigration out of the Tersk region, but the evident object is to get rid of, gradually, the hostile and turbulent Mussulman population of the Tersk region, and to replace it in time by more docile and pliant immigrants of Russian, or even Armenian, nationality of the Christian faith.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

No. 124.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 161.)

Foreign Office, May 14, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 199 of the 1st instant, reporting representations which you have made to the Grand Vizier with a view to obtaining a mitigation of the capital sentences pronounced on Armenians at Yuzgat.

I approve your Excellency's action in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 124*.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 211.)

Constantinople, May 7, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 189 of the 21st ultimo, inclosing Mr. Cumberbatch's No. 36, Confidential, of the 18th, on the subject of the arrest of Karekin, the Protestant Armenian preacher at Yuzgat, I have the honour to report that I caused inquiries to be made at the Porte as to what offence he was charged with.

The Grand Vizier addressed a telegram to the Governor-General of Angora in this sense, and the following reply has now been communicated to me:—

"Karekin has been arrested for having advised the Armenians that the measures

taken against them by the Government were unreasonable, and that they should therefore continue to follow the line of conduct they had adopted (*i.e.*, against the Government). He has been tried by the court-martial, but no sentence has been passed."

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 125.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 217.)

Constantinople, May 9, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting the measures taken there to relieve the distress caused by the drought of last year, and also the good impression produced by the activity of the newly arrived Vali, Hakki Pasha.

As your Lordship is aware, from Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 62 of the 30th January, this functionary has a bad reputation, and his appointment to Erzeroum provoked a remonstrance from Her Majesty's Embassy. I therefore feel it right to point out that he is apparently anxious to do well in his new post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, April 25, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that some effect is at last being given to the measures proposed for the relief of the distressed population of this vilayet. The amount of 30,000 kilés of grain which, as I reported in my despatch of the 22nd December, 1893, it had been decided to import into Erzeroum for Government account, has been increased to 60,000 kilés, to which 10,000 kilés of barley have been added, and a considerable portion of this has already arrived in the district, the balance being expected shortly. Officials have now been sent to the different cazas to superintend the distribution of 45,000 kilés of this wheat as seed corn to such of the peasants as need it for spring sowing, at a fixed price of 10 piastres per kilé, which is exactly one-third of the present market price, and is to be repaid, in money or in kind, only after they have reaped their next harvest.

The agricultural banks are also empowered to advance seed corn from such stocks as they have in hand to the peasants, upon the security of their title-deeds, at the same low rate.

Grain imported from Persia and Russia has also been exempted from customs duties until the 1st (13th) July next.

As the last autumn sowing was abundant, it is hoped that with this encouragement to sow largely this spring, there may be a very large production of cereals this harvest, and all further fear of famine may be removed. But should the crops fail this year, after two seasons of ever-increasing scarcity, a wide-spread and disastrous famine must be the result.

It is only right to say that the initiative of these measures is due to the new Governor-General of Erzeroum, Hakki Pasha, and his activity in this matter, as well as in connection with certain municipal improvements at Erzeroum, which have been entirely neglected in the past, has created a good impression, which I hope may be maintained and not die out with the show of zeal by which it has been occasioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 125.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 219.)
Constantinople, May 9, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155 of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the reinstatement of the "Procureur-Général," and the failure of the intrigue against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, April 26, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the "Procureur-Général" of Erzeroum, Reschid Bey, who was dismissed in consequence of an intrigue of the Police Commissary, Kadim Bey, has been reinstated in his post. It was not found possible to obtain the reinstatement of the Cadi, Nesib Effendi, who was dismissed at the same time, as his successor had been appointed before representations could be made in his favour, but it is believed that he will have no difficulty in obtaining another good post.

Satisfaction is generally expressed at the failure of this intrigue, and it is hoped that its author may shortly be removed from Erzeroum, as he is in disgrace with the Governor-General, who takes every opportunity of showing marks of his confidence and favour to the "Procureur-Général."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 126*.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 220.)
Constantinople, May 15, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 556 of the 4th December, 1893, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the imprisonment of Nerses Effendi, the Bishop of Moush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 126*.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, April 30, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 28th June and 9th November, 1893, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been privately informed that Nerses Effendi Karakhanian, Abbot of the Monastery of Surp Garabet, and Acting Bishop of Moush, after a year's detention in the Bitlis prison, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for seditious incitement of the Armenian population of Boulanik and Melazgerd.

His endeavours, as reported in the second of my above-mentioned despatches, to procure a change of venue to Constantinople or Erzeroum, showed that he had no expectation of an impartial trial at Bitlis, and in Armenian circles his sentence will be learned with great regret, as he is believed to be innocent of the offences laid to his charge, and is generally respected and popular. It is said that the accusations against

him were based on the treacherous denunciations of two Archimandrites (Vartabed) of his own monastery, who were actuated by personal spite and jealousy.

I believe that, owing to his rank, Nerses Effendi must have been tried in the Bitlis Court of Appeal, so that there would be no appeal from his sentence except to Constantinople. But direct communications between Bitlis and Erzeroum are still interrupted, so that I am unable to obtain any further details of the trial, or indeed any confirmation of the news of Nerses Effendi's condemnation; so that I shall have to request your Excellency's kind indulgence if it should turn out that I have been misinformed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 127.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)
Constantinople, May 15, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the Armenian prisoners in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, May 1, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE had an opportunity of obtaining some information from an Armenian who was lately released from prison at Erzinghian, after having passed in the course of a few weeks through most of the gaols in Central Anatolia, which I venture to think is worth reporting to your Excellency.

This man was arrested on suspicion at Angora in December last while making his way on foot to Constantinople in search of work. He was subsequently taken to Yuzgat, Amasia, Tokat, Marsovan, Sivas, and Erzinghian, in hopes of identifying him as a political offender wanted by justice, and, finally, released at the last-named place a short time ago.

According to his statement, there were no Armenian political prisoners in the gaol at Angora where he was confined, though there may have been some in another prison. At Yuzgat, he saw about 200 such prisoners; at Amasia upwards of 200; at Marsovan about 40; at Tokat there were none in the place where he was confined, though he heard that there were a good many in another prison; at Sivas there were about 150; and about 80 at Erzinghian.

He stated that in all these places a certain proportion of the prisoners regarded as dangerous were in irons, but he was not aware of any cause of complaint on the score of torture or starvation. He himself, though destitute and friendless, and, consequently, unable to supplement the prison fare in any way, had been sufficiently nourished, and looked strong and hearty a few days after his release.

He had no knowledge of the presence in Erzinghian prison of Dr. Pachaian, or of the man Devletian, about whom inquiry was made in despatches to me from Her Majesty's Embassy of the 24th August and 23rd October, 1893, but this is not surprising, seeing that a number of the Armoudan prisoners are now confined separately for safer keeping, as I had the honour to report in my despatch to your Excellency of the 23rd March last.

On the strength of this man's figures, I am disposed to estimate the total number of Armenians now imprisoned on political and cognate charges throughout Asia Minor roughly at about 1,300 to 1,500, of whom perhaps 500 to 600 are in the Armenian provinces of this

Consular jurisdiction, and the great bulk of the remainder in the Vilayet of Sivas and the eastern or Yuzgat Sandjak of Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 128.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 15, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir W. White's despatch No. 340 of the 17th August, 1891, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the capture of the Armenian outlaw Karakin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 4, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the capture of an Armenian outlaw named Karakin, who was condemned by default two years ago to ten years' imprisonment for a political offence. Karakin appears to be a professional agitator of some notoriety, and importance is attached to his arrest.

Of the despatches referred to by Mr. Devey in connection with this case, his despatch of the 13th April, 1889, was transmitted to Her Majesty's Embassy in Colonel Chermside's despatch of the 27th June, 1889; his Confidential despatch of the 26th May, 1890, appears never to have been transmitted by the late Mr. Clifford Lloyd, and I have therefore the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith; while his despatches of the 21st and 28th July, 1891, were transmitted in Mr. Hampson's despatch of the 8th August, 1891, but they contain very little information about Karakin.

Mr. Devey also reports the arrest of three or four other Armenians, one of whom, Maloyan by name, is suspected of being the author of letters to the Armenian revolutionary newspaper "Henchag."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, April 2, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report the capture of an Armenian fugitive, Karakin Pachestzian, who had lately returned secretly to his house in Van.

This young man was a few years ago a pupil at the school of M. Portkalian, who, you will remember, fled the country; and it is the same Karakin who was rumoured to have been subjected to torture when in prison, in the spring of 1888. As to his further history, reference may be made to a list of prisoners forwarded in my despatch of the 13th April, 1889, and my despatches of the 26th May and 24th July, 1890. After being condemned to a term of imprisonment for having promoted the escape of the criminal Aghvo, Karakin had been pardoned and released in eleven months' time, and the then Vali had even given him some petty office in the Finance Department.

Just two years ago, when the late Vali, Khalil Bey, had quitted Van, and the prosecution of Natanian Garabed Effendi was anticipated, this Karakin disappeared from the town, and was believed to have fled to Tiflis. He was condemned by default to 10 years' imprisonment, together with the others mentioned in Mr. Fitzmaurice's

despatch of the 27th July, 1892. His voluntary return to the scene of danger would seem inexplicable, and naturally gives rise to the supposition that he may not have been unaccompanied by other Armenian outlaws, imbued with seditious and criminal ideas. Consequently, the police have again searched two or three suspected houses.

About three weeks ago three or four Armenians were arrested here on charges of teaching prohibited songs or for similar petty seditious offences; amongst them is a money-changer, named Maloyan, who, like Karakin, was of the Portukalian "Alumni." Two letters addressed to the Armenian revolutionary journal "Henchag," published, I believe, in Vienna, have been seized; they contain offensive strictures on the Vali and Bishop Boghos Effendi; it is very doubtful whether the handwriting can be shown to be that of Maloyan, but Karakin, it is said, pretends that they are his work, which is highly improbable. Maloyan was in licit correspondence with Armenian journals of Constantinople.

The capture is an important one, if it be merely to show other outlaws the difficulty of returning here with impunity; and if the prisoner in question is so ardent to pose and suffer as a martyr of Armenian patriotism, as his behaviour leads to assume, it was a mistake that he should have received the Imperial pardon after the offence committed in May 1890.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, May 26, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that on the 1st instant four prisoners, two Armenian and two Kurdish, made their escape from the Van Prison, during a night of Ramazan. Among the Armenians was a certain Aghvo, condemned for life for murder.

I believe this man has been guilty of several crimes, including more than one murder, and he is said to have been employed by the ex-brigand Hamzo, of Avjish, in expeditions for pillage or highway robberies.

Aghvo was recaptured by Kurds employed to search for him—who have been to-day rewarded handsomely—in Abagha on the 17th instant.

Three Armenian companions were with him, and all four had horses and Martini rifles, with plenty of cartridges. They were brought into the city on the 23rd instant, three or four days after Aghvo had been reincarcerated.

Their names are Bedros Ganapmanakian and Garabad Zernoyan, two Armenians who were tried for having stolen from the residence of the Akhtamar Catholicos about four years ago a large sum of money, and Karakin, mentioned in my despatch of the 13th April, 1889, who appears as No. 4 in the list of prisoners therein given. Another Armenian, Garabed Akribesian (brother of the Ohannas killed last year in the Chukh affair) appears to have disappeared suddenly from the town, and has been lost sight of; it is naturally surmised that he intended to join the party above mentioned, but missed them by some misunderstanding.

Karakin had been set at liberty with other political prisoners, as reported in my letter of the 15th June last, and I understand that he then admitted having given expression to words if not acts, also of some seditious import, but since his release his conduct has been circumspect hitherto.

The four runaways were taken by surprise probably, for Karakin only was slightly wounded, the others escaping without a scratch. The report of Karakin's death originated in the fact of his horse being shot and himself wounded, and his clothes and belongings having been brought into town with Aghvo.

The Government have the strongest proofs of Karakin's having aided Aghvo to escape, and of having harboured him, and supplied him with things necessary.

Karakin left Van with Aghvo on the 15th instant, passing by Arelag village.

He will not state what were his intentions in making this journey, which is believed to have been taken in execution of some seditious project, or to speak more precisely, in order to join the Armenian revolutionary clique over the border at Hafteyan. There are rumours which are false that the party had passports for Russia; they succeeded in all but attaining the Persian frontier near Kava Ayneh.

Since Karakin has been again lodged in prison in "police" as the term is, *i.e.*, in a separate cell, it is said that torture has been applied to make him confess, and that, though of strong frame, he is now seriously ill from the repeated blows and severe beatings he sustained from his gaolers and captors. His two comrades, Bedros and Garabed, were also stated to be regularly maltreated every night in a similar way, whilst Aghvo was allowed luxuries and comforts. To my certain knowledge these reports are absolutely false and malicious.

It is unfortunate that Karakin's ill-advised behaviour has alienated all respectable people's sympathy from him.

It is rumoured that fresh activity is being displayed for the discovery and apprehension of Armenian revolutionary propaganda. Houses have been again searched, and about thirty arrests have been made. Most of the persons arrested are certainly being detained, in order that fresh light may be thrown upon the means of Aghvo's escape; but a few are said to be, because the suspects are believed to have been engaged in semi-treasonable pursuits, or that seditious books or papers have been found in their possession.

This senseless and criminal proceeding on the part of Karakin is greatly to be deplored, as it harms the whole Armenian community. The Turks are naturally telling one another that the Armenians have always been and are still seditious, and here is the proof, if indeed any be again necessary.

From the information open to me, I can see in this affair little else than the foolishness of a wrong-headed young man with false notions of honour, who joined himself to an escaped convict after abetting his flight, and to two other Armenians of bad character, possibly thinking, at the worst, he would some day appear as an Armenian Garibaldi. No incriminating papers of the least consequence have been discovered on the runaway, though a most thorough search has been made, their saddles even having been cut to pieces.

The three remaining escaped prisoners are still at large.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 129.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 15, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 451 of the 23rd December, 1893, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting a resumption of the fighting among the Kurdish tribes in north-east Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 3, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, with the opening of the roads at the end of winter, accounts are beginning to pour in of renewed heavy fighting among the Kurdish tribes of north-eastern Kurdistan, from which it would appear that security along the Persian caravan route, and the Erzeroum-Van road, is at a very low ebb.

The internal feud between rival sections of the Hassananli tribe in the Melazgerd Caza of Bitlis, the earliest stages of which were reported by Mr. Fitzmaurice and myself in despatches Nos. 4, 25, and 31 of last year, has been resumed with fresh vigour, and about the 20th ultimo an engagement took place at the village of Hussan Pasha, between the followers of Mustafa Jindi, and those of Hussein Agha Ajem Oghlou, in which eighteen men are said to have been killed, of whom four were Toromis, or members of the families of hereditary Chiefs.

The blood feud between the Sipkanli and Haidaranli tribes has also taken a more active turn. Early in April there was a fight between the Sipkanli and the Haidaranli, under Hussein Pasha, of Patnoss (the same referred to in my despatch of the 14th February, in which eight men were killed, after which the Haidaranli in strong force invaded the Sipkanli country, in Alashgerd, and burnt their villages of Bourni Boulak, Harakho Oulia, and Harakho Sifla, besides plundering several other villages, the inhabitants taking refuge with the Ali Torounli section of the Sipkanli tribe, under Yousouf Pasha, who live further to the eastward.

The Hassananli tribe also took advantage of the defeat of the Sipkanli to plunder their village of Nokhioutlou.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 130.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 234.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 16, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 216 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith extract from a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, respecting the court-martial at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Angora, May 5, 1894.*

THE visit of my private emissary to Yuzgat has been as fruitful as I expected, but the perusal of the inclosure in my despatch of this day's date will show that there was little for him to learn that had not been already known to us, especially as the execution of the sentences of the court-martial have been postponed pending confirmation by the Government, which, at the time I sent him, I did not anticipate. He, however, collected sufficient evidence data to corroborate all I have reported so far, and the account of his difficult and perilous journey will show that martial law is strictly enforced in and round Yuzgat, and the documents he has brought prove that everything has been done to smother down any semblance of sedition that, in Government opinion, may have existed in that town and district. In addition to the letter of the 24th April, concerning the proceedings of the court-martial and Court of Inquiry, extracts of which were sent in my No. 38, he brought one or two more documents which I am preparing for transmission, as they have been sent at great risk to the writers, and bear on the present state of things.

Our Vali, Memdouk Bey, has left Yuzgat, and is due here in a day or two, taking Soungourlou on his way, as there have been slight troubles there, too, in connection with the arrest of twelve Armenians, whose case will be duly reported when I get further details.

Everything I continue to hear goes to show that the authorities have contrived to thoroughly terrorize the Armenians, and have created a most bitter feeling of race hatred. As I ventured to point out in my despatch of the 13th April, this severity was not justified.

No news has reached this as to the opinion and decision of the Government with regard to the eighty sentences of the court-martial.

No. 131.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 16, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 207 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with my instructions, Mr. Block called upon the Grand Vizier and mentioned to his Highness that the case of the Armenian Archbishops of Zeitoun and Marash had been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government by persons

who sympathize with them on account of their age and infirmities, and suggested that it might be well if they could, by the clemency of the Sultan, obtain some mitigation of their sentences.

His Highness replied with some warmth that the Porte had noticed that numerous questions had been asked in the House of Commons with regard to these men.

He intended, he said, in order to convince Her Majesty's Government that the Bishops were properly convicted, and had only met with the sentences they had merited, to have translations made of the Judgments against them, which he would send to Rustem Pasha for communication to your Lordship. He felt confident that when the public knew the details of affairs they would cease to extend their sympathy towards the Bishops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 132.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 240. Confidential.)

Constantinople, May 17, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 211 of the 7th instant on the subject of the arrest of Karakin, the Protestant preacher at Yuzgat, I have the honour to report that he was brought to Constantinople under arrest a few days ago, and has now been set at liberty.

I instructed Mr. Eliot to have an interview with him, and I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum of the conversation that took place.

Karakin regards his release as being due to the intervention of Her Majesty's Embassy, and expressed his thanks through Mr. Eliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Memorandum.

THE following is the account given me by Pastor Karakin in the course of a long conversation this afternoon, of recent event at Yuzgat. He is a quiet and somewhat nervous man of about 40, and speaks only Turkish and Armenian. There was nothing in his manner which suggested a desire to romance or invent horrors. On the contrary, he denied some statement received from other informants which seem improbable in themselves, such, for instance, as that the Mufti of Yuzgat issued a Fetva declaring it lawful to kill or bring false witness against disaffected persons.

Karakin's Statement.

Near Yuzgat is a village called Injirli-keui, where lived an Armenian informer called Simon, in the pay of the Turkish Government, and also several members of the Revolutionary Committee.

About seven months ago one of the latter murdered Simon outside the town, which so alarmed the villagers that they at once seized the assassin and delivered him to the local Turkish authorities.

The latter, however, through carelessness, immediately allowed him to escape, on which the villagers, in their zeal to prove that they had no connection with sedition, caught him again. This time he was chained to a zaptieh, but the rest of the Revolutionary Committee broke into the house where he was kept by night and carried him away by force. They were all armed, and threatened to shoot the zaptiehs if any resistance was offered. After this second escape the assassin was never recaptured.

About 100 zaptiehs now came to Injirli from Kirshehir, Yuzgat, &c., and, without making inquiries, simply looted the village, though they did not violate any women. Houses were ransacked, and all property of any value stolen. Finally, twenty of the principal inhabitants, who had absolutely no connection with the revolutionary party,

were taken off to Yuzgat and imprisoned there. These unfortunate persons fared worse than any one else in this story, for eighteen of them were tortured in order to extort from them a confession of their connection with the murder. Three or four criminals who were in the prison for murder administered the torture, which consisted in beating with chains, cutting the hands, arms, and thighs with blunt tin knives, inflating the intestines with air by the application of bellows *à posteriori*, and finally squeezing the testicles. Under this last torture seven of the men signed a paper admitting their complicity with the Revolutionary Committee.

It is to the credit of the Commission that, as soon as they arrived at Yuzgat, which was not till some time after the events here related, they ordered the entire abolition of torture, and, nefarious as were many of their proceedings according to the present statement, it is admitted that those whom they arrested could complain of nothing beyond the ordinary hardships of prison life, with the important exception that three or four were deliberately stabbed in prison. Of the twenty men from Injirli, the Commission at once liberated thirteen, but they retained in prison the seven men who had signed the confession under torture.

Karakin stated particularly that he knew and had spoken with the persons who had suffered torture, and had interceded on their behalf with the Commission, who admitted that they had been tortured.

At the beginning of December Torsun Bey, a Bimbashi (Major), went with zaptiehs from Yuzgat to Kara Chair, a village about a couple of hours' distant, to hunt for "Committee men." He collected twenty men of the village and examined them. While they were thus taken from their homes, those of Torsun's zaptiehs who were not required by him went to their houses and ravished six or seven women, three of whom were virgins. Torsun Bey had discovered nothing against the twenty men, but there was naturally an outcry as soon as they returned to their homes and discovered what had happened. On this fifteen of them were put in chains and taken to Yuzgat. The other inhabitants went and complained to the Kaimakam of Ak-dagh, a neighbouring town. He told them they must send in a Petition to Yuzgat, but at the same time forbade any of the scribes to write for them.

They then went to Yuzgat with the women who had been violated, but could not get a hearing from the authorities. The Elders of the Armenian community urged them to be patient and keep silence, but public feeling was now too much excited for their words to have any effect, and the rasher spirits summoned a public meeting in the church. This assembly was called by ringing the bell, a fact which apparently made a great impression, as Karakin always spoke of this affair as "the bell incident." In the church the people of Kara Chair excited the Yuzgat Armenians to fury by a recital of their wrongs, and finally by showing the clothes of the women, which bore signs of their violation.

Meanwhile, a large crowd of between 1,500 and 2,000 Mussulmans, soldiers, "koljis" (sort of porters) of the Régie had gathered round the church, and were becoming excited. A high Turkish official present said to them, "We are going too far; I will go into the church and arrange the matter peaceably." As soon, however, as he entered and explained his errand, the people mobbed him, and said, "You wish to play the same trick as Torsun Bey: while you keep us here and talk, your soldiers will go and ravish our wives and daughters." They drove him out, and rushed themselves on the Mussulmans. It is doubtful who fired the first shot, but it is admitted that the Armenians were the first to hit any one.

In the fight which followed, three Mussulmans and one Armenian were killed, and about twenty-five Mussulmans and twenty Armenians wounded. The whole affair lasted from noon till 4 P.M. Only fifteen Armenians were immediately arrested, but otherwise, as is well known, the consequences were most serious.

The Governor of Angora and the Mutessarif of Yuzgat were at once dismissed, and a Special Commission, under Hilmi Pasha, sent from Constantinople to Yuzgat.

Immediately after the "bell incident" all the Christian and some of the Mussulman shops were closed, and remained so for more than a fortnight, in spite of all orders and entreaties that they might be opened. When the Commission came, they called upon the Heads of the Armenians to induce the people to resume business, but though the Gregorian priests preached in this sense, they were not obeyed. At last, according to Karakin's own account, he was invited to preach in the Gregorian church, and his eloquence and influence were successful, and he received the thanks of Hilmi Pasha.

The Commission under Hilmi Pasha did little. Its Chief, though mild and civilized, was very indolent, and addicted to drink (he takes morphia).

He isolated Yuzgat, refusing to let the Armenians send any complaints to the Sultan or to Angora, but did little in the way of investigation or examination of witnesses.

Unfortunately, he allowed his subordinates to make arrests at their pleasure, and the result was that in thirty days the number of prisoners rose to 100, the victims being apparently selected for their wealth and position, or because some official bore them a grudge.

On a Thursday morning, a month after the Commission had come, the zaptiehs came to arrest a young man for alleged treasonable language. He resisted, shot the Commissioner of Police in the arm, and escaped into the "mixed quarter" (*i.e.*, where Turks and Armenians live together). The whole quarter was immediately surrounded by soldiery, and early on Friday morning the young man was found and taken to prison. The Mussulman inhabitants of the quarter were very angry because they had been surrounded and suspected on account of the Christians, and as they had no work, owing to its being Friday, they began to assemble, and finally a crowd of several hundreds collected, composed of soldiers armed with fire-arms and bayonets and civilians with axes and stakes. From 10 or 11 in the morning until nearly sunset, there went on continuous fighting and pillaging. He estimated the property looted at 1,200*l.* at least. Fifteen Christians were killed, and eighty wounded, whereas no Mussulmans were in any way injured. No women, however, were violated, as it must be again laid to the credit of the Commission that they had spoken strongly on the subject. When Hilmi Pasha, who is a very nervous man, heard the noise, he rushed out into the snow, before all the people, exactly as he was, in a dressing-gown and stockings, and with a coffee-cup in his hand. He asked if the Armenians were rising, but the soldiers gave him explanations which he apparently thought satisfactory, for he said, "Thank God; I will finish my coffee," and went back to his room. Hence "the Pasha's coffee" became a bye-word in Yuzgat. No Turkish officers took part in the riot, but they did not attempt to restrain the rioters all day. Hilmi Pasha remained in his room, but about an hour before sunset he sent orders that the officers were to stop the tumult. They accordingly sent for their soldiers, who at once came, and the riot stopped. The great majority of wounds were caused by bayonets, showing that the soldiers had been the principal offenders all through.

The young man who had been the cause of all this commotion was stabbed in prison that night, and Karakin asserted that three other persons, including the old man, Hajatour, mentioned in Mr. Cumberbatch's No. 38, Confidential, of the 30th April, were killed in this way. No excuse or explanation was offered for their disappearance. All the wounded were at once taken to the prison, and kept there till they recovered or died. The municipal doctors, being Armenians, were not allowed to attend them, and they were treated by the Turkish military doctors in a somewhat rough-and-ready way, but not unkindly.

The day of the riot 200 or 300 Armenians, and not a single Mahommedan, were committed to prison. Hilmi Pasha left Yuzgat the next morning without attempting to hold any sort of investigation. Though a military man, he had officially acted as a civilian; but on his departure martial law was proclaimed, and Mustapha Pasha, an exceedingly fanatical Turk, was named Idare-i-Urfie-Reisi, or President of the Military Court. He is the man who said, "What is the good of thinking of England? All she can do is to bombard Smyrna."

All the accounts of the trials we have received refer to what was done under this man, not under the Commission. It is to be noticed (1) that he allowed no torture or even great hardship to be inflicted on the prisoners; (2) that within a fortnight he liberated 100 of the Armenians who had been arrested in connection with the Friday riot.

Up to Karakin's departure the inquiry had not yet touched on that riot, but concerned itself exclusively with the "bell incident." The murderers on the occasion of the riot have not been arrested, and it is officially declared, in spite of known facts, that not a single person was wounded with a bayonet. Besides his own examination, Karakin had heard the accounts of many prisoners who had been before the court-martial. There were about forty persons, soldiers and low class Turks, who were represented by the authorities as the men who had stood immediately round the door of the church at "the bell incident," and were, therefore, able to identify the Armenians who had fired or used violence; practically, they were false-witnesses, who swore they recognized everybody. They took not the least trouble to be even plausible in their statements. For instance, a man called Kirkor, who was trusted by the Government, went to make certain official investigations in the country three days before the "bell incident," and

returned ten days after, his servant being with him the whole time. On his return the servant was arrested, and at his examination ten witnesses swore they had seen him armed at the church door. Also, a man returned from six months' absence the day after the incident; he was arrested and identified as having used fire-arms at the church. As a rule, ten witnesses deposed against each Armenian. In one case only five were present, who swore they had seen him with a pistol; five more who were late then came in, and, not having heard the testimony of the first, swore he had not a pistol, but a yataghan. This produced a slight hitch in the proceedings; but finally another five were found, who confirmed the revolver story, and the man was duly committed.

The women violated at Injerli were brought up before the Commission, who spoke to them severely and in very coarse language. They told the three girls to describe the exact details of the rape. The girls began to cry, and said they could not tell a man of their own religion such things, much less Turkish officers, and one of them fainted. The married women, however, volunteered full details, and a *procès-verbal* was made, but the Court wrote at the end of it that as the persons said to have been assaulted refused to confirm the details, there was no case.

Finally, I inquired particularly of Karakin as to the treatment he experienced himself.

He said he attributed his arrest (as reported in Mr. Cumberbatch's despatch No. 41, Confidential, of the 9th May) to the machinations of the Gregorian Bishop of Cæsarea. At any rate, he was taken to prison without any explanation being given him, and was put in a large clean room with twenty-five well-to-do Armenians. They were allowed to read the Bible and pray. They received their meals from their houses, but thought they did not always get as much as was sent. They were permitted to communicate with their friends; but it was the gaoler's joke that they must do so on "the American telegraph system," which meant that the words in each message were to be counted and paid for as if it was a telegram to America.

After twenty-one days' confinement Karakin was called before Mustapha Pasha, who informed him he was charged with preaching against the Government. The interrogatory was short, and he merely denied the accusations. He was then sent back to prison.

On the thirtieth day he was called again, shown a *procès-verbal* of his examination, and asked to sign it. He did so, seeing nothing objectionable in it. He was then told, without any reason being offered, that he was to go to Constantinople next day. As soon as he reached Constantinople he was set at liberty, and merely told to stay here.

He states about 200 Armenians are still in prison at Yuzgat.

He added that an indirect result of this state of things was to increase the extortion of tax-gatherers. When villagers had not money they would force them to sell their animals and grain at a quarter of their value for payment. In more than one case where they had found a rich Armenian in the neighbourhood of a very poor village, they broke open his granaries, distributed the contents to the people, bought it from them at a quarter of the value, and then told them that they were debtors to the rich man instead of to Government.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

May 16, 1894.

No. 133.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 244.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1894.

MR. J. W. FOWLE, an American missionary who has resided for the last nine years at Cæsarea, in Asia Minor, called upon me to-day, having just returned to Constantinople.

He stated that matters are now fairly quiet in all parts of the country except the Yuzgat district, but that the accounts which had reached him from that quarter led him to fear that the proceedings of the Turkish authorities were driving the Armenian population to desperation, and might cause an outburst of Mussulman fanaticism. He considered that the Armenian movement commenced with the posting of seditious placards about two years ago; those placards emanated from a Committee which probably drew its inspiration from Russian sources, and the object of which was revolu-

tion. It found many sympathizers among the respectable portion of the population who desired to see reforms in the Administration, and who did not realize the lengths to which the agitators were prepared to go.

The movement was further stimulated by the members of what he called "the mounted Committee," who rode round secretly to the villages urging the people to resistance. There could be no doubt, he said, that these proceedings justified the Turkish Government in taking repressive measures, but those measures had been carried too far, and had in many cases degenerated into mere persecution. The missionaries were accused by the Turkish authorities of encouraging the movement, but, as a matter of fact, they had done their best to restrain the members of the Protestant congregation from taking part in the agitation.

Those whom they had questioned on the subject for the most part denied their complicity, but admitted that a movement existed.

Mr. Fowle took a gloomy view of the future. I pressed him for his opinion as to the steps which the Turkish Government might be urged, with any hope of success, to adopt. He had no suggestion to offer, and appeared to think that both sides were now so embittered against each other that there was not much chance of an improvement in the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 134.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 21, 1894, 10 A.M.*

ACCORDING to a telegram from Mr. Cumberbatch, Memdouk Bey, the Vali, confirms the truth of the reports already sent as to affairs there.

War was regularly organized by a Secret Society, but on the arrest of Marouk, the ringleader, the movement, which was serious, at once collapsed.

The court-martial has pronounced very severe sentences, which will, however, be revised.

Memdouk Bey has returned to Angora from Yuzgat.

No. 135.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting the extension of the jurisdiction of Yuzgat Court-martial to the whole vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, May 14, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to send your Excellency herewith a copy, with translation, of a Notice that was posted up at Angora in the course of last week. It emanates from the Yuzgat Court-martial, and its contents are to the effect that every act of disturbance, however slight, on the part of Armenians, will be followed by a general seizure of arms and the trial of the rioters by court-martial.

I understand that this is not to be considered as the establishment of martial law here, but merely the extension, all over this vilayet, of the jurisdiction of the Yuzgat Court-martial, which is to remain at that place indefinitely.

I have heard of nothing having happened to justify this apparent apprehension of troubles in this town and neighbourhood, where things have been very quiet, and the publication of such a Notice at the present moment can only be accounted for by the supposition that the Government persists in viewing the late troubles at Yuzgat as revolutionary, and mistrusts the hitherto peaceful Armenians inhabiting this town and region, and whose wholesome fear of the authorities needed no stimulation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Notice of the Yuzgat Court-martial.

(Translation.) (L.S.)

AS is known to every one, the Armenian nation—which has for centuries past lived under the benevolent and just rule of the Turkish Government, and has attained a high degree of progress and well-being—instead of appreciating these inexhaustible favours known to them by His Imperial Majesty, and continuing in loyalty and faithfulness, and thus augmenting its happiness and welfare, has for some time past been the victim of the snares of some individuals serving chimeric ideas and their own interests, thus disturbing the public peace by unlawful acts and unbecoming behaviour.

The chief aim and solicitude of our benevolent Sovereign (may the just God increase his glory and power) being that peace and confidence should reign in all parts of his dominions, and that all his subjects should continuously enjoy happiness and welfare, it is clear that such misbehaviour and such disregard of duties, quite incompatible with the duties of a faithful subject, cannot by any means be tolerated; therefore, if henceforth any slight misconduct or act likely to disturb the peace takes place on the part of mischievous Armenians, all the arms in the vilayet will be immediately seized, and the criminal authors of such peace-disturbing and mischievous acts will be forthwith tried by court-martial on the spot, without appeal against the sentence being allowed to the central seat of Government, and the Court will have power to carry out the sentence immediately.

As the maintenance of peace and confidence is the express desire of the Government, and as the welfare and happiness of its subjects is its most important concern, it is hereby declared and notified that it is His Imperial Majesty's express order that henceforth every one shall take care not to be caught by the snares of peace-disturbing and mischievous persons as heretofore, and shall hold aloof from all disloyal and peace-disturbing acts, and quietly mind his own business.

April 13 (25), 1894 (13 *Nissan*, 1310).

No. 136.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 23, 1894, 11·20 A.M.*

YESTERDAY, in Galata, a prominent Armenian, named Maksoud, whom his countrymen suspect of being a Turkish spy and a traitor to the cause, was shot. The police have arrested his assailants.

No. 137.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 253.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 25, 1894.*

A GATHERING of the American missionaries in Asia Minor is usually held at this time of year in Constantinople, and I requested Mr. Eliot to call upon those from Marsovan and Van, and question them as to the state of those districts.

I inclose a very interesting Report which he has drawn up of the information he obtained from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Report by Mr. Eliot.

I HAD a conversation this afternoon with Mr. White and Mr. Green, American missionaries from Marsovan and Van respectively, who gave me some account of the state of these provinces.

Mr. White said that the country round Marsovan had been fairly quiet since the well-known disturbances of last year. The administration of the province naturally presented the usual bad features of Turkish Government which were unsatisfactory to Moslems and Christians alike. But judging things by the low standard to which a resident in Asia Minor becomes accustomed, he did not think the Armenians had much reason to complain. The present Governor of Sivas, Khalil Pasha, though a man of European culture, is undoubtedly corrupt and extortionate, though less so than Memduk Bey, the Governor of Angora. On the other hand, Mr. White had nothing but praise for the late Kaimakam of Marsovan, Bekir Bey, who was promoted a few months ago to be Mutessarif of Amasia. His only fear was that this excellent official was so impartial and so firm in protecting Armenians, that the Turks might find excuses for turning him out.

He said the real "mal d'Orient" in these districts was the Armenian Secret Societies which had arisen during the last three or four years. It could not be denied that the Armenian community was honeycombed by them; also that, however much one might sympathize with the struggles for independence of a Christian people under the Turkish yoke, their objects were, from a political point of view, distinctly seditious; also that they were in direct connection with a series of outrages and crimes which could only be described as brigandage. For instance, the recent capture of such a man as Thoumayon (the cousin of the one in England) was an unmixed blessing for all classes of the population. These Secret Societies were, he considered, in a great measure due to the intrigues of Russian Agents, three of whom had been captured this year in Marsovan and the adjoining districts. Their deliberate object was to make the state of the country as bad as could be, to fill the prisons and to provoke massacres.

The Russian Agents, of course, desired to render the interference of Russia necessary, but the majority of the Armenians were averse to Russian rule, and merely wished to bring things to a pass which would call for the intervention of Europe generally.

The Gregorians considered that even now, many as are the restrictive measures introduced in the last three or four years, they enjoy greater religious and educational liberty under the Turk than they would in Russia.

The danger of the present position undoubtedly was that the Turks, whose feeling towards the Armenians is now very bad, might begin a general massacre.

Meanwhile, this political discontent had resulted in commercial and economic stagnation. People did not care to work, and the Turks, who did not like to see Armenians moving about, availed themselves of the slightest excuse to impose ridiculous quarantines in the interior. Thus, he had to perform five days' quarantine on his way from Marsovan to Samsoon. It had become almost impossible for Armenians, and difficult even for Europeans, to obtain travelling passports.

He added that there were at present a great number of political prisoners under confinement, and it was reported that a new and larger prison is being constructed at Amasia. He only knew of one case of torture, which was that of the cook of the Marsovan College, who was imprisoned last year. This man was hung up by the thumbs and then by the heels, and severely beaten in order to make him confess that revolutionary doctrines were taught at the college.

M. Boyajian, the Protestant Vekil, hinted to me that Mr. Green was a little inclined to paint things in lurid colours, and he certainly gave a most deplorable account of the condition of Van. The difference between this district and Marsovan

is due mainly to the fact that a large proportion of the inhabitants are Kurds. Many of these latter belong to the Hamidieh regiments, which have degenerated into a system of organized brigandage. The Turkish officers sent to command them reside in the towns, and make no attempt to restrain or even to see their troops, who obey no one but their own Kurdish Chieftains, and oppress both Turks and Armenians. The authorities, who have an idea that the Kurds are a bulwark of the Mahommedan power, do practically all they can to foster this state of lawlessness. The zaptiehs are ordered not to fire on Kurds, and are punished and degraded if they do so in self-defence. When some unusual act of violence necessitates the sending of soldiers to Kurdish villages, they are particularly instructed not to use force, and nothing is ever done. Robbery of corn, cattle, &c., from Christian villages, is so frequent that the Armenians have almost abandoned agriculture, because they know they have little chance of reaping their own crops. There are lands almost in sight of the town of Van which remain unsown, and to the north of the lake the Plain of Arjish, formerly celebrated for its fertility, has become almost a desert. The result has been a famine, due less to physical causes than to this paralysis of agriculture. There are no Secret Societies nor political agitation in this vilayet, the Armenians being too utterly crushed and miserable to have any political aspirations. Their only hope is the intervention of Russia. Formerly, large quantities of emigrants used to pass over into Russian territory, but this has now been stopped. Want and oppression have entirely demoralized them, and it is very common for Armenians to falsely accuse one another of such crimes as possessing arms, desecrating Mahommedan cemeteries, &c., in order to gain a little money or merely favour in the eyes of the authorities.

Conversions to Mahommedanism are becoming frequent. Mr. Green had seen a village where fifty Armenians, including a priest, had changed their religion, and been let off fifteen years' taxes by the authorities.

As a rule, gross abuses take place in connection with the collection of taxes, one of the worst being that if cattle or corn are stolen from an Armenian village the natives are obliged to pay for them as if they were still in their possession. If they object they are heavily fined, on the ground that they are concealing property from which payment is due.

Murder and rape are frequent. As an instance of what happens, Mr. Green mentioned that last year four Armenians and their wives went to gather firewood on a hill quite near Van. They were here set upon by Kurds, who violated the women, and killed and horribly mutilated the men. The villagers laid the four corpses on waggons, brought them into Van, and, despite all attempts to stop them, advanced before the Konak. The Governor promised justice, and an inquiry was held. The Kurds were arrested and identified by the women, but released. The authorities then went to the spot where the murder had been committed, and proceeded to measure the distance to various villages, &c. They found that the nearest building was an Armenian monastery, and hence argued that the monks must have committed the crime. Four of them, including an Abbot of 80 years of age, were arrested and imprisoned.

He also said the state of the prisons was very bad. So many persons died there that the authorities had taken to sending to the missionaries prisoners whose life seemed in danger, in order to reduce the percentage of deaths. They often thus received peasants who had never known a day's illness in their lives, but who, after a month's confinement in these insanitary cells, seemed on the point of death. When they were cured they were sent back to prison again. He said that the persons of these men sometimes showed marks of torture, particularly wounds on the head inflicted with a spike, which often caused insanity.

Of Bahri Pasha, the Governor, he said that he was an honest man who took no bribes, but narrow-minded and very severe.

He thought the condition of Bitlis was nearly as bad as that of Van. The Government of Erzeroum, through which he passed to come here, was better.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Constantinople, May 23, 1894.

No. 138.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 25, 1894.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 144 of the 2nd instant, I made inquiries from Her Majesty's Consuls at Angora and Trebizond as to the case of Ohannes Papeyan, who is said to have been imprisoned at Amassia in January last.

I have now the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter from Mr. Cumberbatch, and a Memorandum by Mr. Eliot of a conversation he has had with Mr. White, an American missionary, both of which documents appear to show that the case is one of peculiar hardship.

As soon as I receive a reply from Mr. Longworth I shall address a representation to the Sublime Porte, with a view to the reconsideration of the sentence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Angora, May 19, 1894.*

FROM Armenian sources, I learn that Ohannes Papeyan was a teacher in a Protestant school near Amassia. Three years or so ago he was arrested with other Protestants, on suspicion, and detained in prison. They, however, all proved their innocence of the charges brought against them, and were acquitted. For some reason or other Papeyan continued to be treated as a suspicious character, and when a letter from Professor Thoumaian to him was seized in the post, he was rearrested, retried, and condemned to ten years' penal servitude. The letter was purely on matters connected with a silk business in which Thoumaian and Papeyan were partners, but was looked on in a quite different light by the authorities.

The precise charge upon which he was tried, and what evidence was brought forward to commit him on, is not known here, nor are his present whereabouts known. In fact, his friends here did not know of his removal from Amassia, though they have not heard of or from him since January.

Inquiries will be made on this point, and, in the meantime, I give you the above information for what it may be worth, as I cannot control it from this distance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Memorandum.

MR. WHITE, American missionary of Marsovan, told me that, according to common report, Papeyan was arrested and ultimately sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for having received a letter from Professor Thoumaian, now in England. The letter in question was said to be on purely business matters, and to contain nothing of a political character.

Bekir Pasha, who was named Mutessariff of Amassia a few months ago, expressed before his appointment his opinion that it was unjust to convict Papeyan on such evidence, but he had not, apparently, had him released.

Mr. White knew that Papeyan had been confined in the prison at Amassia. He did not know he had been removed anywhere else, as stated in the Foreign Office despatch.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Constantinople, May 23, 1894.

No. 139.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 263. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 29, 1894.*

THE Russian Ambassador, since his return from leave of absence, appears inclined to take a more active part in regard to the Armenian question than he has hitherto done.

I learn that at a private audience which he had with the Sultan, after dining at Yildiz Kiosk on the 26th instant, M. de Nélidow observed to His Majesty that there was discontent among the Christian communities of the Ottoman Empire. He did not specify the communities to which he referred, but the Sultan replied in general terms that he had always been anxious to maintain perfect equality among his subjects of different creeds, and instanced several Christians who held important posts in the Administration. The subject was not pursued any further.

A few days since, M. de Nélidow spoke to Artin Pasha of the troubles in Asia Minor, and asked him to suggest to the Sultan that assurances should be given to the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin that steps would be taken to bring about a better state of things. The Catholicos, who is the Supreme Head of the Armenian Church, and who possesses great personal influence over its members, would then, his Excellency said, issue a Pastoral to the Armenians, and would enjoin upon them submission to the Ottoman authorities.

Artin Pasha considers that the object of this proposal is to obtain for Russia the credit of any improvement which may take place in the condition of the Sultan's Christian subjects in Asia Minor, and he hesitates to mention the suggestion to His Imperial Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 140.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 3, 1894, 2 P.M.*

MY despatch No. 263.

The Sultan has, I learn, been informed of the Russian Ambassador's communication about Armenia. He will not adopt his suggestions, and considers their object to be merely the increase of Russian influence in Asia Minor.

No. 141.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 252.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 23, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 188 of the 25th ultimo, on the Kurdish attack on the Armenian village of Talori, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a communication made to me by the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Memorandum.

(Traduction.)

DANS le courant de l'année passée les Arméniens du village de Talori, district de Ghendj, cédant à des instigations criminelles, avaient attaqué les Musulmans et profané des cadavres, ce qui amena une rixe entre eux et les Kurdes.

Mais, grâce aux mesures prises immédiatement par le Gouvernement, l'apaisement se fit dans les esprits. Les Kurdes, ainsi que les Arméniens qui s'étaient enfermés dans les redoutes précédemment élevées par eux-mêmes dans les montagnes, rentrèrent dans leurs villages vers le milieu du mois de Juillet 1309.

Depuis cette époque rien n'est venu troubler la tranquillité du pays. D'ailleurs, des deux côtés, personne n'a été emprisonné pour cet incident, et, par conséquent, il n'y a personne aujourd'hui en prison pour cette affaire.

Et il est vrai qu'au mois d'Octobre 1309, un prêtre et trois de ses compagnons, ainsi que le nommé Ohannes, maître d'école à Huzil (village situé comme celui de Talori dans l'arrondissement de Kulb), qui parcouraient le pays pour soulever les Arméniens, et sur lesquels on avait trouvés des papiers compromettants, ont été soumis à un interrogatoire. Mais cette affaire, qui n'a rien de commun avec l'incident de Talori, est actuellement en voie d'instruction par-devant le Tribunal compétent.

No. 142.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 256.)
Constantinople, May 25, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 182 of the 19th ultimo, respecting the imprisonment of M. Zorian at Diarbekir, I have the honour to report that I brought his case to the notice of the Grand Vizier, pointing out to his Highness the circumstances which seemed to deserve consideration with a view to some mitigation of his sentence.

His Highness replied that he would cause inquiries to be made, and has now informed me that it is not correct that Samuel Zorian was condemned merely for having corresponded with the priest, for having written a hymn, or for having received a song or some newspapers from America some years ago, as stated by Mr. Boyajian in his despatch of the 2nd April last.

The Grand Vizier States that it was clearly proved at his trial that he had held seditious correspondence with persons connected with revolutionary Committees in America and elsewhere, and a letter which Samuel Zorian wrote to Bishop Yeznig contained clear proof of seditious language and revolutionary proposals. He was condemned to five years' imprisonment by the Court of Appeal at Diarbekir, and the sentence was confirmed by the Court of Cassation.

The name of his brother, Kevork Zorian, not being mentioned in the correspondence, he was only asked to give a guarantee that he would appear when required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 143.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 257. Confidential.)
Constantinople, May 25, 1894.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, extract of a private letter from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, forwarding a confidential Report by an eye-witness of the state of affairs at Yuzgat.

With reference to Mr. Cumberbatch's proposal that he should take a tour in his district this summer, I should be inclined, subject to your Lordship's approval, to discourage the idea. His absence from Angora would be inconvenient as long as the present state of affairs lasts, and he has facilities, when at his post, for collecting and summarizing information from the disturbed districts, which he would lose when removed from direct communication with Constantinople, and subjected to the close supervision of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
(Extract.)
Angora, May 21, 1894.

I BEG leave to send a Memorandum containing information given to me in strict confidence by a friend (not a native) in the Turkish service, who has just returned from Yuzgat, where he stayed several days.

He is most reliable and impartial, and has had special opportunities of observing the course of events in these parts during recent years. After perusing these notes your Excellency will see that my reports have not contained exaggerations as to Yuzgat affairs.

A great deal of indignation has been caused by the news of Mme. Artin Thoumaïan having given birth to a child after over ten months' separation from her husband. She was arrested and imprisoned last year at Marsovan in hopes that her husband would give himself up to secure her release, and it is supposed that she was dishonoured while in prison. Artin Thoumaïan was arrested in December or January last, but denied his identity until he was confronted with his wife unawares, who could not hide her emotion at seeing him again. Artin Thoumaïan is, as your Excellency no doubt knows, generally considered a guilty party.

I intended applying officially for permission to take a tour in my district this summer, but I hesitate to do so, feeling sure that, whatever I might say as to the (ostensibly) commercial object of my journey, various interpretations might be given to my trip, which could include Yuzgat or not as might be thought advisable. If, however, your Excellency thinks that later on the trip might be necessary I can apply for permission now, and, if obtained, make my preparations and stand by for your orders. As there are no habitable Hans anywhere, and as under present circumstances I had better not place myself under obligations of hospitality either to Turks or Armenians, I would require some weeks to get a tent or two from London.

I must also add that I should encounter considerable difficulty in obtaining interviews with Armenians, because they would be afraid to come near me. Even here in Angora very few dare to be seen coming to the Consulate for fear of being "involved" with the authorities in some way or other, because, notwithstanding the excellent terms in which I am with the Vali and other officials, I am looked upon as an "undesirable" individual.

I know for a fact that every precaution was and is still taken to prevent Yuzgat people from communicating with me; not quite successfully, however.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Memorandum respecting the state of things at Yuzgat, May 1894.

(Confidential.)

DR. B. related as follows:—

We found everything very quiet at Yuzgat, as if there had been some dreadful calamity. Very few people were to be seen in the streets by day, and no one went out at night. The market was very dull, and business seemed at a standstill. Soldiers were stationed all round the town, which was patrolled by them day and night. The day before we arrived the patrols were doubled because pieces of paper had been thrown out of one of the prison windows containing threats against the father of an Armenian who had turned "informer," and had left Yuzgat, under Government protection, for Constantinople. We visited the prisoners and found over 220 of them, nearly all Armenians, crowded into four or five rooms and in two big places under the Government Konak. All the prisons smelt so bad that the Mutessarif, who accompanied us, was with difficulty prevailed upon to enter one of the rooms. He was visibly affected at what he saw, and had two large rooms prepared at once under the Municipality building, which remedied matters a little. In the prisons I did not see any wounded men, and we found only one man who was ill and needed medical treatment. He was removed to a sick ward.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Mutessarif was outside and the chief prison warder was with us, two or three Armenian prisoners shouted out, evidently with the intention of impressing us with their miserable state, "Why don't they kill us

outright? It would be a merciful thing, instead of keeping us in this place for doing nothing."

We daily saw troops of women and children, most of them weeping, carrying food to their husbands and fathers in prison. By bribing the guards, some are able to speak to their husbands through the barred gates. I had conversations with several leading Armenians and they all told the same story. The action of the Government had been one hard suppression, and the arbitrary proceedings of the court-martial had driven Armenians to despair. Mustapha Pasha was cordially hated, and there was no knowing what acts of desparation the Armenians may not be driven to if Mustapha Pasha and the court-martial continued there much longer.

The feeling of race hatred that has been aroused is considered irremediable, and every Armenian who can manage it has made up his mind to abandon the place as soon as possible.

The Greeks, who are numerous, seem to be the ones who are materially benefiting by the discomforture of the Armenians, and are accused of having secretly done a lot of harm to them whilst remaining on good terms with the Turks. Such a lot of treachery had taken place, and so many arrests and convictions had been effected on false testimony, generally given for money or for interested motives, that no Armenian feels safe, and they were all living in a state of terror as to what was going to happen next, the chief dread being another Mussulman attack, which, they felt, the military force, 1,200 strong, would not seriously attempt to stop, especially as long as Mustapha Pasha was in the place.

I can assure you I was extremely touched by all I saw and heard, so much so, that the general feeling of uneasiness pervading the town crept over me even, and I was right glad to get out of the place.

No. 144.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 29, 1894.*

MR. G. E. WHITE, an American missionary from Marsovan, called upon me this morning, and stated that he had just received news of the arrest of Dr. Meleon Altoonian, Armenian Medical Adviser to the Marsovan College, and of Avcidis Gulbenkian, who was recently engaged as teacher of the Armenian language in that institution. He had no information as to the reasons for the arrest of these two persons, but felt sure that Dr. Altoonian had taken no part in political agitation, though it was possible that he might, under compulsion, have given money to the Armenian Revolutionary Committee which raised contributions from the Armenians at the beginning of last year. Avcidis Gulbenkian is the brother of Dikran Gulbenkian, who has been sentenced at Angora to ten years' imprisonment, and is referred to in Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch to Lord Rosebery No. 491 A of the 26th October, 1893.

Mr. White attributed the origin of the Armenian troubles, in terms even more decided than those employed by the other missionaries, to the incitements of revolutionary agitators. Three of these were, he said, Russian Nihilists, and he believed that many of the persons who had been implicated in the movement had only been forced into joining it by the threats of the conspirators.

He spoke highly of Bekir Pasha, the Kaimakam of Marsovan, who, he said, notwithstanding the strong repressive measures which he had adopted, commanded the confidence and respect of the Christian population. Those measures had been so far successful that the leaders of the movement had, to the best of Mr. White's belief, been all arrested.

Mr. White expressed the opinion that the ringleaders being now in prison, there was some chance that matters might settle down if the Turkish authorities would adopt a more conciliatory policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 145.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June 4.*)

(No. 264.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 29, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the arrest of twelve Armenians at Khinis on political charges.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 16, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that twelve Armenians have been brought under arrest to Erzeroum from the Caza of Khinis, charged with conspiracy and the illegal possession of arms. Among them is a young man of a class somewhat superior to the rest, by name Mousheg Deretsouian, the son of Agop Effendi, a Notable of the village of Tchevirmeh, who graduated at the Sanassarian College at Erzeroum in the year 1891. The judicial inquiry into the case is now proceeding, but it is not believed that the authorities are in possession of any very serious evidence against the accused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 146.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 273.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 1, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 200 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have received from the Rev. H. O. Dwight, relating the circumstances under which the Protestants of Ordou were compelled to desist from their religious services on account of the opposition and riotous behaviour of the Greek population after permission to hold Divine worship had been granted from Constantinople.

I brought the affair to the notice of Said Pasha yesterday, and he informed me that orders have been given by the Sublime Porte to the local authorities to use their utmost endeavours to restore order, and to enable the Protestants to resume their services.

I have the honour to inclose copy of my reply to Mr. Dwight's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Rev. H. Dwight to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Bible House, Constantinople, May 29, 1894.*

WITH unmingled satisfaction and grateful appreciation the Constantinople branch of the Evangelical Alliance learned of your Excellency's efforts to obtain for the persecuted Greek Protestants of the town of Ordou the enjoyment of the right of worship, and saw those efforts promptly crowned with success.

I regret now to inform your Excellency that the authorization given by the Sublime Porte for this worship has been, in practice, annulled by the riotous and insubordinate action of the Greeks of Ordou, who, on the 20th instant, broke up the service of the Protestants, stoned during seven hours the building where the Protestants were assembled, and so intimidated the Governor of Ordou that, far from venturing to arrest the rioters and restore order, he felt obliged to prohibit once more this large, intelligent, and long-suffering body of Protestants from holding Divine worship.

It now appears that the whole lamentable hardship suffered by these Protestants during the past eighteen months has been due, not to any objection of the Turkish Government, but to the singular influence over the local officials of the same noisy and fanatical faction which has now resisted with violence the execution of an order of the Imperial Government.

The Greek Protestant body at Ordou is not in financial or other connection with any foreign Society.

It supports its own pastor and its own schools. Its care as an independent organization, without recourse of dependence in such an emergency, appeals with peculiar force to the sympathy of the Evangelical Alliance throughout the world. This sympathy is my excuse for troubling your Excellency again with this unfortunate affair. A summary statement of the riotous attack upon this body is herewith submitted.

In this connection I beg leave to note the following points:—

1. Nothing in the conduct of the Protestants require the suppression of their worship. Their conduct has been exemplary in circumstances of great provocation.

2. No valid objection against the site of the building warrants, the withholding of permission to worship in it. This has been officially proved by investigation.

3. The prohibition is based solely on dread of offence to the Orthodox Greeks, who interfere in a matter which does not concern them in any way.

4. From our stand-point the whole privilege of religious liberty is imperilled by tolerating its suppression whenever a popular tumult can be excited against it.

Hoping that your Excellency may see fit again to use your powerful influence in favour of the unflinching maintenence of the privilege which that influence has already secured to the Protestants of Ordou, I remain, &c.

(Signed) HENRY DWIGHT, *Honorary Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Memorandum.

ON the 17th May, the Greek Protestants of Ordou received from the Kaïmakam of the town official notification that they were authorized to hold their worship and to reopen their schools in the private house of their pastor, Rev. P. Philadelpheus. They were notified at the same time, however, that they would be expected to find or build another place of worship within three months' time.

Upon this decision of the Government becoming known to the Orthodox Greeks of Ordou, their clergy closed all their churches and schools, and going in a body to the Kaïmakam placed the keys of these churches and schools at his feet.

Upon the refusal of the Kaïmakam to accept the keys, they declared that since Protestant worship is to be allowed at Ordou, the worship of the Greek Church is under a stigma which is inendurable. They then retired, leaving the keys with the Kaïmakam.

The keys of the churches were sent back to the Greek clergy by the Kaïmakam, but were returned to him by the clergy. This bandying about of the keys of the Greek churches was repeated several times.

At the same time a dangerous excitement was produced among the common people of the Orthodox Greek community by a story, diligently circulated, that the Protestants had secured their authorization for worship by bribing the Governor-General of Trebizond and the Kaïmakam of Ordou. Hence, argued the Greeks, no recourse remains to the Greeks but to rise in a mass and prevent the worship authorized by such means.

The evident preparation for violence by the Greeks was communicated to the Kaïmakam by the Protestants. The Kaïmakam ordered them to proceed with their arrangements, to be patient under insult, and to avoid giving the slightest occasion to the Greeks for attack, and to leave the matter of their protection to him.

Meanwhile, on Saturday the 19th May, the Greek Protestants opened their school for boys, which had been closed for twenty months. It was opened in the building authorized for the purpose by the Government and had about fifty boys in attendance.

On Sunday, the 20th May, at half-past 9 in the morning, the Greek Protestants assembled for their Sabbath service to the number of about 350 persons. At the very commencement of the service, while special prayers were being offered for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in view of his gracious permission for the recommencement of regular services, a mob of Greeks commenced to stone the building in which the Protestants

were assembled. The stones shattered the windows and fell among the assembly. Two children were severely cut on the head by stones at this time. Some of the mob then began to climb up to enter the building by the windows, and several women in the congregation fainted from fright. Upon this the pastor caused the iron shutters which protect the windows of the house to be closed and fastened. With the greatest difficulty he succeeded in controlling the young men of the congregation, who wished to hurl stones back at their assailants. He pointed out that they would play into the hands of their enemies by becoming involved in a fight with them, and they restrained themselves with commendable patience.

The iron shutters being closed, lamps were lighted and the service was continued. The noise of the stones falling like hail against the iron shutters was so tremendous, however, that it was impossible to hear the service, and the pastor decided to bring it to a close, dismissing the congregation with the benediction.

The stones hurled by the mob crashed through the iron shutters, riddling them with holes, and destroying window-glass and window-sashes in all the windows on the lower floor of the building besides those on the greater part of the upper storey. Even the stone casings of the windows were pulverized in many places by the force of impact of the large paving stones thrown by the Greeks at short range. This tremendous shower of missiles was directed upon the Protestant house continuously during seven hours, inflicting damage upon the house which cannot be repaired for 100*l*. All this time the police detailed for the protection of the Protestants, numbering fourteen men and one officer, were utterly powerless. They had orders to use moral suasion, but to make no arrests for fear of producing bloodshed. It was not until 5 o'clock in the afternoon that they succeeded in persuading the Greeks to retire, and were thus enabled to convey the Protestants from the beleaguered building to their homes. The people were glad to escape with their lives, for the presence of the police with each group of three or four thus convoyed through the mob did not prevent the mob from stoning and spitting upon the Protestants.

The next day the Kaïmakam notified the Protestants in writing that the authorization for them to worship was withdrawn until new orders could be obtained from Constantinople. The extent to which the Greek mob has possession of the town of Ordou is seen from the fact that on Sunday, the 27th May, it having been reported that fresh orders to protect the Protestants in their worship had arrived from Constantinople, the entire Greek population of the town, armed with clubs, patrolled the streets in order to drive back into their houses any Protestants who might try to come forth. Since the Kaïmakam had not withdrawn his prohibition of the Protestant worship, the Protestants made no attempt to assemble for the purpose, and therefore the peace was not disturbed.

This riot has the greatest importance, since, if the religious liberty of Protestant Christians in Turkey can be set aside by a mob in Ordou, a mob in every town may accomplish the same result to the overthrow of the Imperial Edicts which provided the right of all men to worship in peace, according to the usages of their Church.

(Signed) HENRY DWIGHT, *Honorary Secretary of Constantinople Branch of Evangelical Alliance.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Sir P. Currie to Rev. H. Dwight.

Constantinople, May 31, 1894.

Sir,

I MENTIONED to-day at the Porte the proceedings of the Greeks at Ordou, of which you informed me in your letter of the 29th.

I was assured that the matter had already been considered by the Council of Ministers, and that orders had been telegraphed to the authorities to use their utmost endeavours to restore order and to enable the Protestants to resume their services. In the event of its being found dangerous to public order that the services should take place in the house of the pastor, another suitable building was to be provided.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 147.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, June 6, 1894.*

THE Government have at last accepted the Armenian Patriarch's resignation.

No. 148.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 187. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 257 of the 25th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs at Yuzgat and the question whether Her Majesty's Consul at Angora should make a tour through his Consular district, and I concur in your Excellency's view that it would be undesirable for Mr. Consul Cumberbatch to absent himself at present from his post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 149.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 12, 1894.*

HAVE you heard anything further regarding the Yuzgat and Sivas prisoners since your telegrams Nos. 57 and 58 of the 2nd and 5th ultimo respectively?

We are being pressed for further information.

No. 150.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 189.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 12, 1894.*

IN the communication from the Grand Vizier relative to the Kurdish attack on the village of Talori, which forms the inclosure in your despatch No. 252 of the 23rd ultimo, I notice a statement that no one was imprisoned in connection with that affair.

This assertion is at variance with the accounts of the incident given by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum and the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, inclosed in your despatch No. 188 of the 25th April, from which it appears that several of the leading Armenians were arrested and sent to Bitlis, and that two or three were believed to have died in prison.

I shall be glad to hear from your Excellency whether the Memorandum communicated by the Grand Vizier has been sent to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum for his comments on the apparent discrepancy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 151.

Evangelical Alliance to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 13.)

7, *Adam Street, London, June 12, 1894.*

My Lord,

THE Council of the Evangelical Alliance have refrained for many months past from troubling your Lordship in regard to matters of religious liberty in Turkey and Armenia. We have been seeking to bring influence to bear, through our Constantinople Committee, directly upon the Turkish Government; but, from all appearances, we shall have before long to ask your Lordship's attention to a statement regarding the whole question of religious liberty in Turkey, and particularly in Kurdistan. In the meantime, however, we are doing all that is possible to avoid troubling your Lordship's Department in the matter.

Our Council desire me, however, to inform your Lordship that the action taken during the past few months by M. Thoumayan (an Armenian who was released from imprisonment last year mainly through the pressing request of the British Government) has not been either with the consent or approval of the Evangelical Alliance. We have again and again warned M. Thoumayan that his efforts to promote in this country an agitation against the Turkish Government was only calculated to injure the cause of religious freedom.

Notwithstanding these warnings, he appears to have been constantly holding meetings at which exaggerated statements have been given regarding the whole situation, and which we believe cannot but render more difficult any good offices which Her Majesty's Government might be inclined to exercise in favour of those who are suffering from religious oppression in Armenia or other parts of Turkey.

We understand also that at M. Thoumayan's meetings certain Memorials have been adopted and forwarded to your Lordship. We feel it therefore necessary to disassociate ourselves in every way from these proceedings.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) A. J. ARNOLD,
General Secretary.

No. 152.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 13, 1894, 10·45 A.M.*

PRISONERS at Yuzgat. With regard to your Lordship's telegram No. 41 of the 12th, I believe that the assurances conveyed in my telegram No. 57 of the 2nd May, respecting the prisoners at Yuzgat, may be fully relied on, though no further announcement has been made on the subject.

No. 153.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 280.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 6, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110 of the 11th March, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora on the sentences pronounced on the Armenian prisoners at Denek-Maden, together with an extract from a private letter from him on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, May 30, 1894.

Sir,

IN my despatches of the 18th October and 6th November, 1893, I had the honour to refer to the case of several Armenians of Denek-Maden accused of having posted up seditious placards in that town a year ago, and in my despatch of the 28th February I reported that their trial had taken place at Kir-Shéir, and that the sentences had been referred to the Yuzgat Court-martial for confirmation, but that Court, not admitting its competence, the papers were returned to the Court of Appeal at Angora for revision, as stated in my despatch of the 9th March.

I am now in possession of further particulars, which I beg leave to submit to your Excellency.

Kirkor Garabet Oglou Bedros, Agop Baklian, Kéropé Baklian, Alexandre Keyadjian, Kevork Abadjian, and a youth named Anania, of Gurun, have been sentenced to penal servitude for life, only one of the prisoners originally committed for trial, viz., Philippos Tomassalian, having been acquitted.

The perusal of the inclosed translation of a letter received by me from Denek-Maden leads one to think that they did not deserve such severe punishment, and I may add that the then Public Prosecutor told me that, in his opinion, there was only sufficient evidence, and that of a meagre and circumstantial kind, to convict two of the prisoners.

Unless the Court became subsequently possessed of further evidence which has not come to light, I can only account for the unusual severity of the sentences by the fact that the events at Yuzgat must have influenced the Court in its application of the maximum penalty allowed by law.

I am informed that appeal against the sentences has been made before the Court of Cassation at Constantinople, and that its decision is shortly expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Letter from Denek-Maden to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Translation.) *May* 6, 1894.

THE reason why Kirkor Garabet Oglou Bedros, Agop Baklian, Kéropé Baklian, Alexandre Keyadjian, Kevork Abadjian, and Anania, of Gurun, have been condemned, is as follows:—

[This statement is based on the depositions of a great number of witnesses, and on the declarations of the prisoners themselves.]

During the first days of May 1893 the local police and the Commissary, sent from Angora to find out the men who had posted up in various parts of Denek-Maden numerous placards, all of which appeared within five to ten days of each other, instructed the aforesaid Alexandre Effendi Keyadjian to help them in discovering the culprits. He being Mudir (agent) of the Tobacco "Régie," had the assistance of several "Koldjis" (guards). While he, Alexandre, was engaged in carrying out the orders given him, and though he informed the authorities of the results, about fifteen Armenians were arrested on the depositions of some false witnesses, who stated that the authors of the deeds complained of were the Armenians of Denek-Maden.

All the above-mentioned persons, except Alexandre Effendi, were included in the number arrested. They were accused either of having actually posted the placards, or of having read them, or of having known about them before they were posted. In consequence of the inquiry that took place, all the rest were released.

As to the real authors and distributors of the said placards, these, being written in Armenian characters, but in the Turkish language, and being totally different from those previously posted up in other parts of the country, it is to be presumed that if the older ones were posted up by the Armenian Revolutionary Society, these last ones, being different in form, and being posted months later, were not the work of Armenians, especially as they were written in what is known as the "Nodrkir" printing type.

Now, about that time the Kaïmakam (Sub-Governor) and the Mal-Mudiri (Financial Secretary) were on bad terms. The Mal-Mudiri had on his staff some young Greeks who could read and write Armenian, and it being just the time when he was about to leave for Soungourlou, to which place he had been transferred, he thought of injuring the Kaïmakam before going, and he instructed the young Greeks in his Department to write out and distribute the placards in question.

During his examination, Rendé Oglou Youssouf, one of the young Greeks, denied being able to read or write Armenian. To this the above-mentioned Hadji Kévork Abadjian declared that the said Youssouf had formerly been in his employ, and that his Armenian handwriting was still in his books, and this was duly proved both by witnesses and by the production of the books. The said Youssouf was made to write again, and his handwriting resembled that of the placards more than any of the other numerous handwritings did. It was also proved by other signs that the placards were the work of the Greeks, and that the Armenians were perfectly innocent in this

matter. This was the conclusion arrived at by the Denek-Maden officials, and was also the view taken at the time by the Angora authorities.

In obedience, however, to instructions sent from Angora, saying that since the posting up of placards had been attributed to the Armenians, it would not look well to have the Greeks accused of the same charge, the Greeks who had been in the meanwhile arrested were accordingly released, and the culprits sought for among the Armenians. Thus, at the moment when it was all but proved who the real culprits were, the Greeks were set free and the Armenians committed for trial. Owing to depositions subsequently manufactured, Alexandre Effendi himself was also included in their number.

That they, the Greeks, should depose so as to incriminate Alexandre Effendi, was natural and necessary to them, because he had incurred the enmity in connection with the inquiries he had been ordered to make, and they had to accuse some one else in order to exonerate themselves.

As it was generally believed that these men, though committed for trial, would, in one sitting of the Court, be acquitted, and forthwith released, we are at a loss to understand on what grounds these hopeful expectations have been converted into despair by their perpetual imprisonment in a fortress.

Concerning the circumstances which led to the committal of Anania of Gurun, the last of the above-mentioned Armenian prisoners, they are of quite a different nature.

Two men were bargaining about barley in the market-place of Denek-Maden. The said Anania, with the object of acting as a mediator, said to the seller, "Listen, my good man; why don't you accept the price he offers? How long will it take to have the new crop on the market? Say, four days." No sooner had he said this than Kara Djouman, a bad character, and some friends of his who were standing by, fell upon him, and shouted, "You infidel; what is the meaning of those words, 'four days remain?' What are we going to be in four days? Are you going to slaughter us after four days?" and with such exclamations they thrashed the fellow so ruthlessly that he was left on the spot nearly dead.

The authorities arrested both parties, and instituted an inquiry, but the assailants escaped from the prison, and as for the unfortunate victim, Anania, he is now condemned to perpetual imprisonment in a fortress for having used the words, "only four days remain."

Inclosure 3 in No. 153.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Angora, May* 31, 1894.

I THINK the Turks have overdone it in the case of the Denek-Maden Armenians, reported in my despatch of yesterday's date.

From what the Governor-General and the Public Prosecutor then told me, viz., in October last, I gathered that there was something of the sort, as related in the letter from Denek-Maden, going on. I was, however, told by both of them that there was little or no evidence of a serious nature against the men, and that most probably they would all be released; perhaps two, they said, might be sentenced, but to terms of three or five years.

It can, therefore, only be assumed that consequent upon the subsequent troubles [*sic*] at Yuzgat, it was deemed fit to take the severest possible view of the case. The Court of Cassation may reduce the sentences, but I doubt it.

Though the statements contained in the inclosure to my despatch need to be received with caution, I feel certain that my correspondent has not willingly given a false account.

As in this case and other cases here, I continue to take every favourable opportunity of impressing the Vali with the advisability of not allowing men to remain untried longer than is necessary, and I think that, notwithstanding the laziness and incompetency of the judicial authorities, pending trials will be ended in due course. We have no news for some time from Yuzgat except persistent complaints against Mustapha Pasha's régime.

In a private conversation I had with Menduoh Bey, our Vali, he admitted that Mustapha had been too severe, and that his conduct had done a great deal to incite and encourage the Turks against the Armenians.

If he is able to allow as much as that to me, I am sure that he could say a good deal about the proceedings of the Court-martial, if he liked.

He, Memdouh Bey, has just sent off his Special Report about the occurrences at Yuzgat, and the present state of affairs. From his conversations with me and others on the subject, I believe he has made things out to have been much worse than they actually were, and that the revolutionary movement was more widespread than it at first appeared to him.

He has no doubt armed himself when at Yuzgat with all sorts of "avowals" obtained in various ways. The Armenians will, according to him, have admitted seditious intentions, but, owing to his management of affairs, have given guarantees of loyalty for the future, &c.

I must admit, however, that the few Armenians from Yuzgat whom I have been able to interrogate speak well of his conduct there. In fact, one of them told me that he was accused by Mustapha Pasha of being a friend of the Armenians when he tried to interfere on one or two occasions. Some say he interposed only when it was made worth his while to do so, and this is not to be wondered at considering his Sivas reputation as the "Napoleon of extortioners." Here at Angora he has not quite got "well in the saddle."

No. 154.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 285.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 8, 1894.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 304 of the 3rd July, 1893, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the sentences pronounced on the Armenian prisoners at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 22, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the sentences passed upon a number of Armenians in connection with the Kurubash murders, reported in Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 10th June, 1893, and subsequent despatches, and upon others who are charged with being members of seditious Societies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, May* 14, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report the conclusion of the proceedings and inquiry into the murders at Kurubash village (*vide* despatch of the 30th May, 1893), which took place nearly a year ago, whilst on the same occasion an examination has been made of those Armenians charged with being members of a seditious Society both at that time and a short while previously.

The Court find that the outrage committed near Kurubash was instigated by the Armenian Revolutionary Committee for purposes of political agitation, but come to no decision as to who were the actual murderers, which is to be regretted. Eight persons in all have been acquitted and discharged, including the Varak monastery monk Vartanis "Vartabed," who was arrested later, two servants, and the two Kurdish watchmen of the monastery, but they will be under police surveillance for a time; sentences of imprisonment have been passed upon twelve Armenians found guilty, one of three years and three months, four of six years, and the remaining seven of three years. The four whose sentence is heaviest—two brothers named Madoyan, Chichian Avedis, and Papujian Artin—are said to have been implicated in the assassination of Nouri Effendi, which occurred in October 1892.

The examination of Karakin, mentioned in a previous despatch, is proceeding, whilst Maloyan, who has been convicted in the Appeal Court here of "jinayet" (crime of the highest degree), has appealed to the "Temiz" Court at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 155.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 8, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 219 of the 9th May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the dismissal and departure of the "Procureur-Général" of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May* 22, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that, in spite of the most positive assurances from Constantinople that the "Procureur-Général" of Erzeroum, Reschid Beg, was reinstated in his post, his dismissal has been confirmed by the last mail from Constantinople, and he has left Erzeroum on his way to the capital.

I am told that the Vali, Hakki Pasha, is much annoyed at this incident, and has officially applied for the dismissal of the Commissary of Police, Kiazim (Kadim) Beg, whose intrigues have been the cause of the "Procureur-Général's" fall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 156.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 288.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 10, 1894.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 54 of the 30th January last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora on the case of Dikran Gulbenkian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, June* 4, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th January, and to previous correspondence on the case of Dikran Gulbenkian, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that he has this day been sent to St. Jean d'Acre (Akka), viâ Constantinople, to undergo the term of 10 years' imprisonment to which he was sentenced last year.

As regards my reply to Sir C. Ford's telegram of the 22nd October, 1893, I beg leave to state that particulars received by me since then from the very best sources confirm the information I sent, and which induced his Excellency to throw up this case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 157.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 291.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 11, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 158 of the 5th April, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the alleged arrest of an Armenian at Moush.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 29, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have obtained the following information regarding the Armenian said to have been arrested at Moush for communicating with Mr. H. F. B. Lynch, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 24th March.

The man's name is Stepan Kenderian, of Egin. Shortly after Mr. Lynch's visit he was thrown into prison, and two or three days later sent to Bitlis, where he remained a prisoner for two or three weeks. My informant could not say whether his communications with Mr. Lynch were the direct cause of his imprisonment, but believed that the ostensible reason given was that he has been falsely denounced for seditious practices by an Armenian who had unsuccessfully sought his daughter in marriage, and this is probably the explanation which would be given by the authorities. When no proofs of his guilt were obtained by the Examining Magistrate at Bitlis he was set at liberty, and allowed to return to Moush, and, so far as I can learn, he has not been further molested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 158.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 292.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 11, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 252 of the 23rd May, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the subject of the Kurdish raid on the village of Talor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 158 A.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, June 21, 1894.*

ARMENIAN affairs.

The Revolutionary Committee have addressed letters to all the Armenian churches in Constantinople threatening the clergy with death if they continue to mention the Patriarch's name in their prayers in celebrating mass.

The police have promised to protect the clergy, and have ordered them to take no notice of these threats.

Owing to the difficulty of appointing a successor, the Armenian Patriarch's resignation, though accepted some time ago, has not yet been made public.

No. 158 B.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 19, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, forwarding a report from the Consular Agent at Mosul giving details of the murder of a Yezidi priest by Turkish soldiery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158 B.

Consul-General Mockler to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Bagdad, May 19, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour very respectfully to submit, for your Excellency's information, copy (in translation) of a Report, dated the 10th instant, received by last Constantinople mail (13th May) from Mr. Nimrud Rassam, our newly-appointed Consular Agent at Mosul, giving details of the murder, in a very brutal manner, by Turkish soldiery, of Kuchik Mirza, the Yezidi priest whose name will be found mentioned in inclosure of my despatch of the 16th December, 1893, and in extracts from previous news-letters (now appended) received by me from Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. MOCKLER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158 B.

Report from Consular Agent, Mosul, to Consul-General Mockler.

(Translation.) *Mosul, May 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, after imprisonment of Kuchik Mirza, the Yezidi about whom I communicated some information in my letter dated the 21st April last, his Excellency Aziz Pasha, our Vali, having written to Constantinople suggesting advisability of that man's removal from Mosul, received orders from the Sublime Porte to send him to Sivas; upon which Ali Aga, Tabour Aghasi,* put him in irons, and on Monday, the last day of the month, before sunrise, took him out of Mosul and proceeded in the direction of Zako with a guard of fifty mounted troops from the cavalry and zaptiehs.

On the morning of the following day a telegram reached the Vali, sent by the Tabour Aghasi from the station at Bastaki, to report that when they arrived at the

* Commander of a battalion of gendarmes is so called.

village Simail, thirteen hours from Mosul, they placed him in a room under guard, and at 10 o'clock in the night, when he (the prisoner) was aroused by natural call, a party of sixty men of the Yezidis made an attack upon them with force of arms in order to release the prisoner, and in the action a bullet hit the prisoner, and there he died.

On receipt of this report Vali ordered Musa Effendi, the Assistant Procureur-Général, Abdul Rehaman Effendi, the interrogating officer, and Isa Beg, a military surgeon, to proceed thither, make *post-mortem* examination of the dead body, and inquire into the circumstances of the matter according to rules.

These officers went there, and on their return it appeared that they found not even a vestige of truth in Tabour Aghasi's report, and the case was quite the reverse; and therefore they were unable to take legal proceedings in the matter, fearing lest the Vali should get angry at them, for, on inquiry, I found that the man in question was wilfully murdered by the troops in a very shameful and atrocious manner, that is, when they reached the aforesaid village they poured paraffin oil over his head and beard and set fire to; then they cut off his legs at the knees, tore open his mouth, cut off his penis and put it into his mouth, stabbed his body over and over, and at last they fired two shots into his belly and thus killed him, and threw his body into a cesspool.

The cause of this rumour ascribes to the Vali himself, for, on the night of the banishment, his Excellency sent his special servant, accompanied by the Superintendent of Police, who forcibly took from the prisoner about 1,000 liras which he had in his belt, and gave secret orders to the Tabour Aghasi to kill him in the way in a manner that would be justifiable by the rules of the police, that is, to shoot him to death, and pretend to have done so in an attempt of the prisoner to run away on meeting a party of his sect come to effect his release; but the Tabour Aghasi, out of his stupidity and ignorance, failed to carry out the plan in the way he was told, and executed it in such a shameful manner which bewildered the Vali and the judicial officers, not knowing what to do to screen the matter, and make it to appear in the eyes of the inhabitants and foreigners to be false.

In addition to all this the Vali sent, on his part, one Muhammad Beg, Mudir of the district of Sheikhan, to bring in all the properties of the Kuchik, on coming to know that his sons, hearing of the murder of their father, had taken flight for fear of the conduct of the authorities, leaving their properties in their house at Kabara village, and taken refuge with Haji Agha, Chief of Kochar.

Six days ago about 1,500 sheep and 500 camels were brought in. These were taken by the troops from the Alaiyat tribe of the Shammar for sale and distribution to those from whom such were plundered; but considering the numerous complaints for cattle taken by the troops, it seems most part of them were taken by the troops from Arabs who are submissive to the authorities and graziers of the cattle belonging to the inhabitants of Mosul.

It is with regret that I find it incumbent upon me to report on the present state of the Christians of the mountain dependencies of this vilayet with respect to their state of living owing to injuries and aggressions of the Kurds, and slackness and carelessness of the authorities with regard to their protection; and it is ill for me to say that the authorities never look upon these oppressed people as their subjects other than in the way of tributaries for payment of taxes and dues.

I may mention one or two of many instances. In the middle of last month a party of mischievous characters from the tribe of Herkee attacked the village of Azakh, in the district of Mazoori, a dependency of Dahoke, and plundered about six houses and carried away all the properties found in them. They even stripped off the clothes of their occupants, men, women, and children, not leaving even a shirt on their bodies. They were therefore obliged to abandon the village and take flight for fear of their lives.

On the 20th of the same month another attack was made by another party of the same tribe on two villages, Talloomah and Balloomah, and plundered about twenty-four cattle, horses, and mules belonging to the inhabitants, and caused the death of one of them.

According to information obtained, the cause of all these movements and aggressions is one Salim Khan, one of the members of the Medjliss of the district of Zibar, who is a man of influence among the Kurds, and in spite of repeated cries and complaints of the aforementioned Christians and others, the authorities give no importance to them.

(Signed) NIMRUD RASSAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 158 B.

(1.)

Consular Agent, Mosul, to Consul-General Mockler.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) *Mosul, February 7, 1894.*

ACCORDING to what is heard the siege by troops of the Yezidi inhabitants of Sinjar is renewed, and Bekir Pasha subsequently received orders permitting him to punish them for reason that a number of sheep were plundered from the Kocher tribe in some parts of Sinjar. Some say it was the Yezidis who plundered them, who deny the fact, and others say it was the Shammar tribe. Having no large guns, he was obliged to cause them to be brought from Bagdad and Kerkook, supposing he can knock down the mountain and so gain victory over the Yezidis.

(2.)

Consular Agent, Mosul, to Consul-General Mockler.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) *Mosul, March 7, 1894.*

An officer of the staff for enrolling conscripts left a few days ago for Sheikhan for the purpose of inspecting the men who are to be taken from the Yezidis for the year just due, and arrears of men due for ten years. This officer was accompanied by no military officers.

On taking proceedings a difference arose between Mirza Pasha, the Amir of the Yezidis, and Kuchik Mirza, who was at the head of the besieged in the mountain of Sinjar, has now made a high name and become a person of great influence among the inhabitants of Sinjar, more than their own Amir above alluded to, for he constantly collects money from them, promising to use his efforts to obtain restitution of Sheikh Adi's temple, which is more sacred to them than any other place of worship, together with their banners seized by Government since they were taken possession by Farik Omar Pasha; and owing to said difference Mirza Pasha demanded from the authorities to summon Kuchik from the district and cast him into prison, but Government took no notice of his demand.

(3.)

Consular Agent, Mosul, to Consul-General Mockler.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) *Mosul, April 21, 1894.*

The authorities caused Kuchik Mirza, who led the besieged (Yezidis) in the Sinjar Mountains, to present himself here, pretending that they want him to receive delivery of the banners and the Malk Tawuz. But on his arrival yesterday he was forthwith committed to prison, because he, after quitting Sinjar and arriving at Sheikhan, has been always throwing discord and sedition among the Yezidis of those parts, and having in the cause of their religion collected from them a considerable sum of money and very many horses and cattle, and become a man of great wealth and considerable power.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 1, 1894.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch to your Excellency of the 9th April, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a further despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir on the subject of the Talor affair, correcting his previous statement that the inhabitants of that village had remained all the winter in an inaccessible mountain fastness.

To-day I had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd May, inclosing copy of a Memorandum from his Highness the Grand Vizier on the same subject. I can only say that Mr. Boyajian's proved caution and accuracy in reporting such cases make me inclined to credit his rather than this vague official version of the affair, which is no doubt based upon the reports of the Governors of a notoriously ill-administered district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Diarbekir, May* 12, 1894.

I BEG to correct here a statement made in my Confidential Report dated the 13th March last upon the affairs in Talor.

In the fourth paragraph of the above-mentioned despatch it was stated that the Armenians, being apprehensive of a greater calamity, withdrew with their families to an inaccessible mountain fastness, and remained there during the winter, and still continue, &c. From a recent inquiry I am informed that for the first part of the winter they remained in the mountains, but as the snow fell heavily and blocked the roads leading to Talor, feeling then secure from the incursion of the Kurds, they returned and spent the remaining part of the winter in their own village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

No. 159.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 300.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 19, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Mr. Block, relative to steps which are said to have been taken by the French and Russian Embassies here in regard to the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

THE Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to M. de Nélidoff. *en clair*, instructing him to send 550*l.* by telegraph to the Russian Consul at Erzeroum, for the Armenian sufferers by the famine, as a first instalment of the collection, which is to be made in Russia by the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, for suffering Armenians in Asiatic Turkey.

It is credibly reported that the French Ambassador made representations to the Palace for a mitigation of the sentence of death pronounced against the two

Armenians who attempted to assassinate Simon Bey Maksud, President of the Conseil Laïque at the Armenian Patriarchate. It will be remembered that the Court of Cassation confirmed the sentence of death under instructions from the Palace.

The Porte has learned that several Russian Armenians who have served in the Russian army intend leaving Batoum for Turkey.

Threatening letters were received by the officiating clergy in the chief Armenian churches of the capital last week, to the effect that the Patriarch's name was not to be mentioned as usual in the service. In consequence, the Patriarch's name in the prayer beginning "Domine salvum fac" was omitted on Sunday last.

The Armenian Patriarch's resignation, although accepted, has not been signified to the Patriarchate. The Patriarchate, as a matter of fact, has ceased to exist; there is no Patriarch, no *locum tenens*, no Assemblée Générale, no Conseil Laïque, and no Conseil Ecclésiastique.

There is considerable perturbation at the Palace at the action taken by Russia and France, as shown above, as also at the intelligence of the proposed visit of the Russian Armenians from Batoum, and by reason of the threatening letters mentioned above.

(Signed) A. BLOCK.

Therapia, June 19, 1894.

No. 160.

Memorandum communicated by Rustem Pasha, June 27, 1894.

A DIVERSES reprises dans le courant de cette année des questions ont été posées dans la Chambre des Communes au sujet d'Évêques ou de prêtres Arméniens que l'on représentait comme ayant été expulsés de leurs résidences pour des motifs futiles ou injustes.

Il résulte des informations transmises par la Sublime Porte à Rustem Pacha que parmi les trois religieux auxquels les questions se rapportaient, le premier, qui est l'Évêque Iznik, d'Arabkir, a été interné à Jérusalem pour menées et intrigues séditieuses mais il n'est pas en prison.

Cette décision a été prise à la suite de plaintes formulées contre cet ecclésiastique par le Patriarche lui-même, qui dans ses communications à la Sublime Porte, le représentait comme étant en révolte contre son autorité et comme refusant d'obéir à ses injonctions.

Le second, qui est l'Évêque de Kénoch, nommé Wartan, a été arrêté à Erzindjan sous prévention de crime de haute trahison, et son cas a été référé à la Cour Criminelle.

Quant à l'Évêque de Zéitoun, nommé Garabet, il a été déféré aux Tribunaux en même temps que plusieurs autres individus pour avoir participé à l'organisation d'une révolte contre les autorités Impériales dans le district de Zéitoun; et pour ce fait le dit Évêque a été condamné à la détention dans une forteresse en vertu d'un jugement qui a été plus tard confirmé par la Cour de Cassation.

Turkish Embassy, Londres, le 27 *Juin*, 1894.

No. 161.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 200.) *Foreign Office, June* 29, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 280 of the 6th instant, relative to the sentences passed on Armenians of Denek Maden, accused of having posted seditious placards in that town.

It would seem desirable that your Excellency should, if you have a fitting opportunity, communicate to the Grand Vizier the substance of the letter of the 6th May from Mr. Cumberbatch's correspondent at Denek Maden.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 162.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 304.) *Constantinople, June* 20, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, giving an extract from a letter from Dr. Jewett respecting fresh placards and arrests in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, June 12, 1894.

Sir,

THE following is an extract of Dr. Jewett's letter to me, dated Sivas, the 21st May:—

"Placards were distributed in Turkish houses at Amassia last week. People say the Turks did it. Only one placard was posted at Arzizie, and the circumstance as reported to me point very strongly to the Kaïmakam as the instigator of the whole affair. He is a fellow that Halil Bey brought with him from Van. The placard was not like other placards, but was more insulting to the Sultan. They say that the handwriting resembles that of a certain low-lived fellow whom the Kaïmakam employs for dirty business. The Kaïmakam compelled, by imprisonment and beating, certain men to say that the handwriting looks like that of the Armenian priest. I am told that these men telegraphed to the "Procureur-Général" that they testified falsely under compulsion. Six prisoners were brought here from Arzizie (in chains I am told), including two priests, Protestant teacher, and an Armenian teacher. Arzizie is a Circassian village. There are 300 Circassian families, 50 Karslic families, and 80 Armenian families.

"Dr. Melcom, one of the local directors, physician and instructor of the Marsovan College, has been put in prison. The college building that was burned last year was held in his name, and the Vali has been threatening him with imprisonment for a long time if he did not withdraw from the college and sign a paper stating that the property was his, and did not belong to the college."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 163.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received July* 2.)

(No. 307.) *Constantinople, June* 22, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting that the Kurdish Chiefs of the Haidaranli and Sipkanli tribes have been brought to Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, June 8, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Kurdish Chiefs, Hussein Pasha of Patnoss, of the Haidaranli tribe, and Hassan and Yousouf Beys, of the Sipkanli tribe, have been brought to Erzeroum under military escort, in order that the Vali, Hakki Pasha, may

examine them with respect to the fighting which has taken place between their respective tribes, as reported in the latter part of my despatch to your Excellency of the 3rd ultimo.

The general impression is that Hussein Pasha was the aggressor in this affair, and hopes are expressed that, as a result of the Vali's inquiry, this dangerous character may be permanently removed from the district which he has done so much to ruin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 164.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1894.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 189 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to state that a copy of the communication from the Grand Vizier respecting the Kurdish raid on the village of Talor was forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the 23rd ultimo.

I have now telegraphed to Mr. Graves instructing him to obtain an explanation of the discrepancies between the account of the occurrence given by His Highness and that furnished by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 165.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 316.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 27, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 83 of the 21st June, I have the honour to state that, in consequence of the threats of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, the name of the Patriarch was omitted from the prayers in the Armenian churches in Constantinople on Sunday last. The Catholicos at Etchmiadzin and the Patriarch of Jerusalem were the only ecclesiastical authorities who were prayed for.

The Armenian Patriarchate in Constantinople is closed with the exception of the offices for the registration of births and marriages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 166.

Evangelical Alliance to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord, 7, *Adam Street, Strand, London, July 3, 1894.*

IN my communication of the 12th June, I referred to certain difficulties which had recently arisen in Turkey, on the subject of religious liberty, and expressed the fear that we might have to appeal specially to your Lordship in regard to these matters. I am sorry to say that this necessity is now laid upon us.

The Council of the Evangelical Alliance desire to ask your Lordship's earnest attention to the accompanying extracts from communications just received from our Committee in Constantinople. This Committee have been already in communication with Sir Philip Currie and several of the other Ambassadors at Constantinople; and while asking that we should lay the whole case before Her Majesty's Government, our friends in Turkey gratefully acknowledge the ready and effective action already taken by the British Embassy. There is, however, an evident intention on the part of many of the officials of the Turkish Government to nullify the action of the Porte itself, and it is now felt to be of supreme importance that Her Majesty's Government should make energetic representations to the Sublime Porte on this subject of religious liberty for the Protestants in Turkey.

In the particular matter at Ordou, the Grand Vizier, at Sir Philip Currie's solicitation, issued orders that the Protestant community of 350 persons should be allowed to meet in their pastor's house pending the receipt of the official permit which for two years has been withheld. This order was not obeyed by the local Governor until peremptory instructions were sent from Constantinople; and then, even, the local Governor appears to have been overawed by the Greek community, so that he reported to the Sultan's Government his inability to maintain order and protect the Protestants. The later communication from Ordou shows that the Constantinople Government have now weakly yielded to the threats of the Greeks; and the rights of the Protestants, according to Treaty, have been practically annulled.

It is the firm conviction of our Constantinople Committee (composed of men who have lived in Turkey for many years, and who fully understand the whole situation) that unless the principle of religious liberty is upheld in this Ordou case there will be, all over the country, a recrudescence of religious persecution such as we have not witnessed for many years.

The Evangelical Alliance therefore beg your Lordship earnestly to consider this matter, as one involving the whole principle of religious liberty in Turkey; and we trust that your Lordship may see your way to instruct Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople to make such representations to the Turkish Government as shall secure justice for the much oppressed native Protestants of Turkey.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. J. ARNOLD,
General Secretary.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Extract from Communication, dated Constantinople, June 23, 1894.

IN the month of January 1892 an Edict was issued from the Sublime Porte requiring the closure of all Christian schools and places of worship which did not within three months obtain official permits.

This Edict placed a stigma of quasi-illegality upon all assemblies for Christian worship in chapels or private houses, and upon all schools established under the liberal usages hitherto observed in Turkey, during the thirty-five years since the promulgation of the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856. It thus opened the way for setting aside the liberty of worship and of education granted to the Christians of Turkey in the Hatti-Humayoun whenever local officials chose to disregard its requirements.

A most striking example of the abuse of this Edict has occurred in the case of the Protestant Greeks of Ordou, in the Province of Trebizond, on the Black Sea coast. In this town there are about 200 Armenian Protestants, and between 300 and 400 Greek Protestants. Difference of language divides these people into two separate congregations, living in separate parts of the town.

In 1891 the Protestant Greeks of Ordou built a house for a parsonage, which also contained rooms for the teachers of the schools, and halls for the two schools of the community. They had raised with great difficulty a sum of 800*l.* for this building, but they had it in mind, so soon as they could recover from the strain of this expense, to ask for an Imperial Firman, and to undertake the building of a church. Meanwhile they intended to hold their services of worship, as they had done for some years, and as the Armenian Protestants of the town still do, in temporary quarters.

After some difficulties the permit was given for the Greek Protestants to continue their services in the hired house they had been using. The lease of this place expired in May 1892, and the Protestants asked permission to worship in their pastor's house. The Orthodox Greeks opposed the Protestants meeting in their pastor's house, on the ground that it was only 5 metres from the Greek church. A Commission sent by the Governor-General examined the ground, reported the claim of the Greeks to be unfounded, declared that the site of the parsonage was not near enough to the Greek church to afford valid grounds of objection, and recommended that the permit granted.

This ought to have settled the question. But the Governor-General, willing to please the Greeks, refused to issue the permit, and ordered that the Greek Protestant be forbidden to worship or to hold their schools in any building in Ordou until they had first obtained for it an Imperial Firman of authorization. Under this order the Greek Protestants were prevented from meeting in their own houses for social worship, and the

police even interfered to prevent family prayers in Protestant houses, on the ground that this was worship under the meaning of the order. From that day to this, that is to say, during a period of two years, this congregation of nearly 400 persons has been forbidden to meet for worship, and their schools being closed, their children, numbering over 100, have been left in idleness on the streets.

In May 1893 this condition of affairs came to the notice of the British and German Ambassadors, who took a kindly interest in the case; but in March 1894 this unfortunate community at Ordou was still denied the right of worship.

Representations were made to the Porte by the Embassies of Great Britain and Germany, and the Legation of the United States, and at length, on the 29th April, an order was issued, in which it was directed that the Greek Protestants of Ordou be allowed *temporarily* to worship and to hold their schools in their parsonage, but that they be required as soon as possible to provide themselves with some other place of worship.

But the Governor-General of Trebizond delayed the execution of this order at the request of Greek members of his Council, where the Protestants are not represented. Finally, on its being repeated more than once from the Sublime Porte, and having first notified the Greeks that the order would be executed on the 20th May, he caused the order of authorization to be communicated to the Protestants of Ordou on the 17th May, 1894.

On the 18th May the three priests of the Orthodox Greek church at Ordou, with certain Notables of the community, held a meeting, in which they decided to call upon their people to rise *en masse* and break up the Protestant service. It is important to note that the decision of the Greeks having been made known to the Governor-General by the Governor of Ordou, resulted in the issue of instructions to the Ordou authorities not to arrest any Greeks engaged in the proposed riot. These orders to give impunity to rioters were made known to the Greeks before the riot began, not necessarily by the Governor, but by the Greek members of his Administrative Council.

On Sunday the 20th May, when 350 Protestants were just beginning their morning service in the parsonage, the proposed rioting took place, and during seven hours a howling mob of Greeks stoned the building, smashing window glass, window sashes, and even the iron shutters which the Protestants had closed in order to protect their persons from the hail of heavy stones. The police stood by during all this time as disinterested spectators. After seven hours of this inaction the police interfered to save the lives of the Protestants, and escorted them to their homes. The same day the Governor of Ordou forbade the Protestants from meeting for worship until further orders.

Nevertheless, on Sunday, the 27th May, and again on Sunday, the 3rd June, the same disgraceful scenes were repeated. The Greeks, gathering courage from impunity, again and again stoned the Protestant parsonage and the adjacent Protestant dwelling-houses, spit upon or beat Protestants whom they met in the streets or found in the market-place, and loudly cursed and reviled the Protestant faith.

Formal complaint has been made by the Protestants to the Sublime Porte of these outrages and of the serious damages done to their property, with request for protection. The only answer given to this complaint was an official order from the Sublime Porte, communicated to the Protestants of Ordou on the 18th June, by which the authorization to worship in the parsonage is formally withdrawn. These Protestants are therefore now left where they were two years ago, prohibited from holding religious services.

Certain points of this affair call for special emphasis:—

1. The "perpetual and unchangeable" Hatti-Sherif which organized the Protestant community in 1853, orders all Government officials to protect the Protestants from the interference of other sects in their religious affairs. But in this case no attempt to protect the Protestants from the unlawful interference of the Greeks was made by the officials of the Province of Trebizond.

2. While the Hatti-Humayoun and the Treaties proclaim liberty to worship unmolested as one of the fundamental rights of all Christian subjects of the Sultan, during the years 1892 and 1893 no attention has been paid at the Sublime Porte, excepting as such attention has been drawn by the observations of foreign Embassies to the hardship suffered by this large and respectable body of Protestants in being prohibited to meet for worship during two years.

3. Such contumely as has been heaped upon the Protestants at Ordou is a public insult to the Protestant faith, and demands public reparation. It is reasonable from this point of view to request of the Sublime Porte:—

(1.) The *repair of the damages* inflicted on the parsonage by the mob, and amounting to over 100*l.*;

(2.) Instructions to the Governor of Ordou *to interfere in no way with the continuance of the school in the Protestant parsonage* as he is now threatening to do;

(3.) The immediate issue of a Firman to build *a Protestant Church at Ordou* upon some site accepted by the Protestants and the Government as suitable; and

(4.) Authorization for *the Protestants to worship* at their parsonage until they have succeeded in building their church.

4. These occurrences at Ordou have a far wider bearing than the mere suppression of Protestant worship in that town. The negligence of the local authorities in respect to the protection of Protestants, and their inaction towards the rioters, before and during the mob and after its dispersal, are in danger of being interpreted as signifying official sanction of such attacks on Protestants. The attitude of the local authorities of this province thus becomes a precedent for the persecution of Protestants throughout Turkey, which is intolerably dangerous.

Unfortunately, these occurrences do not stand alone as evidence of discrimination against Protestants as such, with disregard of the fundamental principles of religious liberty. The suppression of Protestant worship at Fatsa, also in the Province of Trebizond, is another case in point.

At Fatsa, the Protestants number about 150. During some ten or twelve years past they have worshipped in a house owned by the community, where their school has been carried on upon week-days. They have no church, and are not able as yet, financially, to undertake the expense of obtaining a Firman and building a church.

In 1892, when the Edict above referred to was issued, the Orthodox Greek clergy requested the Governor of Fatsa to refuse a permit for Protestant worship. The Governor sent a notice to the Protestants requiring them, under the Edict, to apply for a permit for their long-recognized chapel, and as soon as the application was in his hands, he treated it as conferring upon him the right to refuse the application, and prohibited all Protestant worship in Fatsa until an Imperial Firman should be obtained from Constantinople.

The Governor of Fatsa, in ordering the Protestants of that town to petition the Sublime Porte for a Firman for their chapel, knew perfectly well that he was ordering an impossibility so far as any result from the Petition is concerned. And in making the holding of Protestant worship in that long-established and recognized chapel dependent upon the issue of a Firman for the building, he simply permanently prohibited the worship. In consequence of this action of the Governor of Fatsa, the Protestants of that place have been prevented during eighteen months from meeting for worship or from holding school, for in all this time their Petition has received no answer from the Sublime Porte.

At Fatsa there is no pretence, as at Ordou, that the site of the house gives the Greeks a right of interference. But the only remedy for the Protestants lies in securing the recognition of the illegal character of the act of the Governor in closing the chapel, and in the issue of the formal permit contemplated in the Edict which the Governor abused, authorizing the continuance of worship there as heretofore. This remedy can only be applied through the intervention of foreign Powers interested in religious liberty. Meantime, the Protestant worship and the Protestant school at Fatsa remain suppressed.

Similar action—closing places of worship used by the Protestants for many years under the terms of their Hatti-Sherif of organization, and with the full consent of the authorities—has taken place at Aghn, in the Province of Karpoot, at Kir Shehir, in the Province of Angora, and at other places.

At Constantinople and at Sidon the efforts of the Protestants to obtain Firmans for building churches have thus been prolonged over ten years or more, with no prospect of a favourable result. Yet both in Constantinople and in Sidon Roman Catholics have been allowed to build churches in the very quarter of the city for which the Protestants have made the application which has been held in abeyance for so long a time. This has been done although in each case they did not file their application until five or six years after that of the Protestants.

Our prayer is for steps to be taken officially at the Sublime Porte, not only for the removal of the causes of complaint here mentioned in specific cases, but for the recalling to the minds of the Sultan's Ministers the obligations under which the Ottoman Government has placed itself to preserve religious liberty and the liberty of education intact, and to cause its Protestant subjects to enjoy entire equality of rights and of consideration with the other Christian sects of the Empire.

No. 167.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 106. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July* 10, 1894, 11·15 P.M.

THE Chief Secretary to the Sultan to-day read out in Turkish to Mr. Block, who took it down, an important communication which His Imperial Majesty had personally dictated, and desired should be sent to me.

The following questions are put by the Sultan, after an expression of confidence in myself and allusions to the regret which he has felt at having been unable hitherto to grant me a private audience:—

1. Could there be a friendly interchange of views between His Majesty and the Ambassador, care being taken not to lose sight of the interests of the British and Turkish Governments, with a view to arriving at a solution of the Egyptian question between the two countries?

2. With regard to the Balkan States and the maintenance there in the future of the interests of Turkey, could there be an interchange of views? and could His Majesty rely on the assistance of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the above, as well as the preservation in general of Turkish provinces and Constantinople?

3. The Armenians are endeavouring to convince Europe that Turkey is in a state of barbarism; as time goes on they become bolder, they insult the Mahommedan religion, trouble the people, and there is no accusation which they do not calumniously formulate against the Government; they also use the European press to further their ends.

With a view to terminating this state of affairs, and to the interests of Turkey, could not views be interchanged on this subject?

4. Could not there be a conversation with regard to Persian incursions?

The Turkish Governors, both civil and military, are continually hearing of the audacity of the Persians on the frontier; how they send over bands of brigands, who attack His Majesty's subjects and their property.

No. 168.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 217.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 298 of the 19th ultimo, forwarding a report from the British Consular Agent at Mosul of the murder by Turkish soldiers at the village of Simail, near Mosul, of a Yezidi priest named Kuchik Mirza.

This outrage seems to have been committed with circumstances of exceptional brutality, and I think that your Excellency should take an opportunity of informing the Grand Vizier of the reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government in regard to it, and should also call his Highness' attention to the other acts of misrule reported by Mr. Rassam, and particularly to the neglect of the authorities to protect the Christians in the vilayet against Kurdish aggressions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 169.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 55. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 15, 1894, 1 P.M.

AFTER duly acknowledging the friendly nature of the Sultan's message as reported in your telegram No. 106, you may make the following statement:—

1. That in the case of Egypt authority has already been given you to receive and refer to Her Majesty's Government any proposals which may appear to you likely to lead to a settlement, and that I have now renewed this authority.

2. That Her Majesty's Government are as anxious as ever for the most friendly relations with Turkey, for the maintenance of the Sultan's position, and for the

No. 168*.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 218.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1894.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter, with inclosure, from the Evangelical Alliance,* on the subject of the difficulties experienced by Protestants in Turkey in the free exercise of their religious worship.

Special reference is made in these documents to the events which have recently occurred at Ordou and Fatsa, in the Province of Trebizond, in connection with this question.

I have informed the Society of the action taken by your Excellency, and of the orders which have been issued by the Porte in consequence of your representations, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 273 of the 1st ultimo.

I have to request that you will urge the Porte to insist on complete protection being afforded by the Governor of Ordou to the Protestants of that place, so that they may be enabled to meet freely for public worship in whatever building may be most convenient to them.

There is a statement in the inclosure communicated by the Society to which I desire to call your Excellency's attention, as it seems distinctly at variance with the assurances given you by Said Pasha; it is to the effect that the only answer returned by the Porte to the representations of the Protestants of Ordou was an official order, communicated to them on the 18th ultimo, by which the permission to worship in the parsonage was formally withdrawn.

It is desirable that your Excellency should act as much as possible in this matter in concert with your American colleague.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

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* No. 166.

security and welfare of his dominions, and that your Excellency is equally authorized to discuss any suggestions for promoting these objects, and to refer them home.

3. That as regards the recent troubles in Asiatic Turkey, Her Majesty's Government believe that the only safe and successful method of dealing with them will be found in treating the Sultan's Armenian subjects in a just and conciliatory spirit, that our sympathy and co-operation will always be extended to the Turkish Government if they follow this course, which we believe to be in accordance with the feelings of the Sultan himself, who may be assured that the encouragement of seditious movements against his authority is far from our intention.

4. That as to Persia, we are anxious to promote the best relations between that country and Turkey, and will gladly continue to give our good offices for the settlement of any frontier difficulties which may arise.

No. 170.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 325.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 4*, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter I have received, purporting to be from the President of the Constantinople Branch of the "Hentschakiste" Revolutionary Committee. In this letter is inclosed a copy of a communication said to have been made to the Grand Vizier, demanding the release of the Armenians arrested on account of the anonymous letters to the Armenian clergy which were referred to in my telegram No. 83 of the 21st ultimo.

The word "Hentschak" is the name of a revolutionary paper published at Athens, in Armenian, and may be translated "Vox clamantis."

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

The Revolutionary Committee to Sir P. Currie.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 30 *Juin*, 1894.

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-jointe la copie de la lettre adressée par le Comité Révolutionnaire Hentschakiste au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et je vous prie de bien vouloir intervenir en votre qualité de Représentant autorisé d'une Puissance Signataire du Traité de Berlin auprès du Gouvernement Impérial afin que satisfaction soit donnée à la juste réclamation formulée dans la dite lettre.

Au nom du Comité Révolutionnaire Hentschakiste de Constantinople,
Le Président :
(Signé) ED. ARAMIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Revolutionary Committee to Grand Vizier.

Altesse, *Constantinople, le* 30 *Juin*, 1894.

À PROPOS des lettres adressées au clergé Arménien de nombreuses arrestations ont été opérées parmi les Arméniens :—

1. Attendu que les souls auteurs et propagateurs de ces lettres sommes nous, les révolutionnaires Hentchakistes ;

2. Attendu que les personnes arrêtées n'ont eu aucune participation en cette affaire ;

3. Attendu que Sa Majesté le Sultan, en révoquant l'Archevêque Khorène Achikian, donna raison aux réclamations des Arméniens à propos de la question du Patriarcat et par cet ordre même annula le délit reproché aux personnes arrêtées, si délit il y a ;

Nous vous proposons, Altesse, de mettre immédiatement en liberté toutes les personnes arrêtées à propos de la dite question.

C'est seulement par des mesures d'accord avec la justice et en donnant satisfaction aux réclamations si justes du peuple Arménien que vous pourrez, Altesse, prévenir la révolution qui menace à éclater sur toute l'étendue de l'Empire Ottoman. Connaissance a été donnée de cette lettre aux Représentants des Puissances étrangères.

Comité Révolutionnaire Hentschakiste, Branche de Constantinople.

No. 171.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 327.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 5, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, respecting the case of Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, who has recently been arrested in Constantinople, and conveyed to Yuzgat, where he is now in prison. He is charged with complicity in the movement of December last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, June 20, 1894.*

AS it is probable that the case of Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, of Yuzgat, may be brought to your Excellency's notice by his friends at Constantinople, I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum on the subject, together with a translation of a confidential communication received by me from Yuzgat, detailing the manner in which, according to my correspondent, the arrest of Papasian Effendi and his near relatives was brought about.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Letter from Yuzgat to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Translation.)

AT the present moment, eight persons belonging to the Papasian family are imprisoned, each one being charged on some sort of accusation or other.

In consequence of accusations which it has taken six months to concoct and mature, the arrest of Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, and his conveyance to Yuzgat under escort, have been effected, notwithstanding the fact that he had left Yuzgat ten or twenty days previous to the Tuesday (12th December) incident, and was away for seven months, spending his time partly at Angora and partly in Constantinople on private business, and for medical treatment of the illness he has been suffering from.

They had previously repeatedly attempted to procure his imprisonment, but had not succeeded owing to the absence of any credible evidence. But latterly they have secured the assistance of Hanéfi Effendi, Kaïmakam of Maden, and have succeeded in giving shape to the accusations they had been preparing during the past six or seven months, and this is how the said Kaïmakam acted.

He tortured the Christian villagers on the pretext that they had accorded shelter to Morouk, who was hanged here, and that they had participated in his acts. He was more particularly severe on the inhabitants of Bebek, a village in the Maden district, who were compelled by force to say that orders had been given to them by Hampartzoum Effendi to shelter Morouk, and to obey his orders, and a *procès-verbal* to this effect was by force obtained from the villagers.

The Kaïmakam obtained a similar declaration in the same manner from the inhabitants of the Armenian village of Tévzili.

In the above manner have the Yuzgat Notables (Turkish) prevailed upon the

provincial officials under their influence, and have succeeded by means of false accusations in causing the arrest and imprisonment of Hampartzoum Effendi.

To-day is the tenth day since he has been in prison without trial. His brother, Gaspar Agha, has been imprisoned for more than twenty days. The latter is an old man of 65 years of age, who has never wronged any one all his life, who has always lived a perfectly Christian life, and who has been for years subject to epilepsy.

No question has been put to either of them, and we learn from a good source that the documents embodying the accusations made against them have been sent to Constantinople.

Another of the prisoners is Agopian Effendi (Papasian), who for years has served as member of the Idaré Medjliss (Provincial Council) and has rendered valuable services to the country in general.

Another is Krikor Effendi (Papasian) who has been for four years member of the Adlié Medjliss (Tribunal), and who, by the conscientious discharge of his duties, had won the gratitude of thousands of his countrymen.

Two others are brothers of the last named, and are partners in the same business, which is greatly suffering from their imprisonment.

They were not even allowed liberty for two hours to attend the funeral of their aged mother, who died a few days ago, deeply affected by the misfortune that has fallen on her sons.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

Memorandum on the Case of Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, of Yuzgat.

HAMPARTZOUM EFFENDI PAPASIAN is a leading Armenian merchant of Yuzgat who was arrested at Constantinople about the 1st June at the request of the court-martial, and was conveyed to Yuzgat, where he is now in prison awaiting his trial on the charge of complicity in the seditious actions of other Armenians already convicted, notably of Zirar Caloust, *alias* Morouk, who was recently hanged at Yuzgat.

In answer to inquiries made by me in official quarters at the time of his arrest, I was told that suspicion against him had been roused by certain facts which became known in due course to the court-martial.

1. That he had travelled last autumn in certain parts of the district of Yuzgat where the said Morouk had been most active.

2. That a few days before the Yuzgat troubles of the 12th December, 1893, he left that place for Angora.

3. That when the Vali put himself in direct telegraphic communication with the representative Armenians of Yuzgat, after the aforesaid troubles, his Excellency was referred to Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, then at Angora, for information as to their grievances.

4. That when requested to call on his Excellency he persistently pleaded illness as an excuse for not going.

5. That on the occurrence of the conflicts of the 2nd February at Yuzgat he suddenly left Angora for Constantinople.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Angora, June 20, 1894.

No. 172.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 331.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 8, 1894.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 611 of the 30th December, 1893, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora reporting the movements of certain high Turkish officials in the Vilayet of Angora.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Angora, July 2, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th December last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Béha Bey, Mutessarif of Yuzgat, has been transferred to Broussa as Muavin (assistant) to the Vali of the Hudavendighiar Vilayet.

Béha Bey was appointed to Yuzgat in difficult and trying times, but has not shown himself equal to the occasion, in fact, he tendered his resignation almost as soon as he got there.

I have heard no special complaints against him during the six months he has been at Yuzgat, though every one seems to agree that he was not the man for that place under present circumstances.

He has been replaced by Djaffer Pasha, whose last post was that of Mutessarif of Hauran, and who was formerly at Kir-Shéir as Mutessarif and at Angora as Chief of the Tithes Department. He enjoys a fairly good reputation, and it is hoped he will prove a good administrator, but, like his predecessor, he will have to take a secondary position at Yuzgat so long as the court-martial and Special Commission remain at that place.

I have also to report that a new sandjak has been added to the Angora Vilayet. Tchoroum is the residence of the new Governor, whose district will comprise the Cazas of Tchoroum, Soungourlou, Iskélip, and Osmandjik.

The reason for this change is a purely administrative one, suggested by recent events in those parts and the distance those cazas were situated from the chief town of the sandjaks they belonged to.

It is calculated that this alteration will add about 100,000 inhabitants to the Angora Vilayet, whose total population will reach nearly 1,000,000.

I take this opportunity to add that Ali Nihad Bey, Kaimakam of Istanos, to whose conduct I had occasion to refer in my despatch of the 22nd December, has been transferred in the same capacity to Baala, where there is no Christian element to be oppressed, and he has been replaced by the Kaimakam of that place, Réouf Bey.

It is mainly owing to repeated complaints of acts of injustice and fanaticism against Armenians, to which I have had occasion to call the attention of the Vali, that the transfer of Nihad Bey has been, for the second time, decided upon.

It may also interest your Excellency to know that Brigadier-Generals Mustapha Pasha and Mehmed Selim Pasha, and Colonel Aziz Bey, the President and two members of the Yuzgat court-martial, have received decorations from the Sultan, presumably in connection with their services at that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 173.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 333.)

Constantinople, July 9, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 189 of the 12th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the discrepancy between the accounts of the Kurdish raid on Talori given by the British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir and the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 173.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Erzeroum, June 29, 1894.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the 25th instant, instructing me to report by post, explaining the discrepancy which exists between the

account given by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian of the occurrences at Talori, forwarded in my despatch, Confidential, of the 9th April, and the version set forth in a Memorandum communicated by his Highness the Grand Vizier, copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch to me of the 23rd May.

I have now the honour to inclose an extract of a private letter which I have received from Mr. Boyajian on this subject, dated Kharput, the 19th June. I would point out that, although he received the first news of this affair on his return to Diarbekir on the 5th November, 1893, Mr. Boyajian applied himself from that date until the 16th March, 1894, to verifying and extending his information, before he ventured to embody it in an official despatch; also that Talori itself is not in Mr. Boyajian's district, though close to its border, but the Kurdish tribes concerned belong to the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

The version contained in the Grand Vizier's Memorandum I suppose to be based upon reports furnished by the Bitlis authorities, who are directly interested in minimizing the whole affair, and throwing all the blame upon the people of Talori; and some of its inconsistencies are sufficiently pointed out by Mr. Boyajian in the inclosure to this despatch. I have no hesitation in saying that Gendj is about the worst governed sandjak of what is rapidly becoming the worst vilayet in the Empire. The Mutessarif implicated in this affair, Mushaph Pasha, was subsequently dismissed and replaced by Ibrahim Kiamil Pasha, whose notorious character is referred to in my despatch of the 9th December, 1893, and to whose statements no credit whatever should be attached.

In conclusion, I may say that careful inquiries which I have myself made here among well-informed persons coming from Bitlis and Moush substantially confirm the correctness of Mr. Boyajian's Report from several entirely independent quarters with but slight variations of detail, and that I have little doubt that his version of the affair is infinitely nearer to the truth than that of the Grand Vizier's Memorandum, though it would be difficult, or even impossible, to establish the fact in the face of official hostility.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 173.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

(Private.)

(Extract.)

Kharput, June 16, 1894.

MANY thanks for your private letter of the 1st June, communicating contents of Memorandum received by the Ambassador from the Grand Vizier on the subject of the Talori affair.

The account which I gave in my despatch I collected after careful inquiry from a reliable source. There may be some errors in the details, but in the main I believe them to be correct.

The reply of his Highness the Grand Vizier is, of course, from the authorities of Bitlis vilayet, who are, as you justly say, most probably to blame for the affair. But still, in the official version, with a moment's consideration, we can at once see that the statement of the Bitlis authorities is anything but the correct one. The Memorandum says that the Armenians of Talori last summer, yielding to criminal instigation, attacked the Mussulmans and desecrated their corpses, which caused a fight between them and the Kurds, &c., but that no one on either side was imprisoned for this affair. Now, is it likely that the Armenians should attack and kill Mussulmans and desecrate their corpses, and the authorities of the Bitlis vilayet be so indifferent, not to say lenient, to the Armenians, as not to arrest any of the criminals? This would be, if nothing else, contrary to the principles of justice, and sheer neglect of their duty; and besides, was the scene of the tragedy Talori, the Armenian village, or some Mussulman Kurdish village? If Talori, what business had so many Kurds to crowd there? Was it for attacking or to be attacked? As to the statement in the Memorandum that no one now remains in prison on this account, it is perfectly true, for as I learn, two or three of the Talori Armenians died in the prison, and a priest, with three companions, and a schoolmaster were arrested "for going about the country to raise the Armenians against the Government."

I have nothing more to say in the way of throwing any further light upon the case, nor do I think you will be able to obtain anything from Bitlis, as Talori is far away from that place. It is in the Sandjak of Gendj, and on the border of the Diarbekir vilayet.

No. 174.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 336.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the intrigues that are on foot for the removal of the Vali of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, July 2, 1894.*

THE following is an extract from Dr. Jewett's letter dated Sivas, 11th June.

"A strong effort is being made by the Notables of Sivas to remove the Vali. The officials, with very few exceptions, are against him. His opponents claim that he is a Kizil-Bash, a man of evil fortune, a disturber of the public peace, and by his lack of ability in dealing with the Armenian question has injured the province. The Vali claims that the opposition to him is due to the fact that he has checked bribery and corruption, and is enforcing the collection of old debts owed by the Notables for many years to the Government."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 175.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 114.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, July 17, 1894, 9·5 P.M.*

HIS Majesty the Sultan has expressed great satisfaction at the reception accorded to his message, which was conveyed to your Lordship in my telegram No. 106. With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 55, I sent a message to His Majesty that I had communicated with Her Majesty's Government as to the four points raised, and that I was now ready for an interchange of views. The Sultan has answered that he will receive me shortly.

No. 176.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 342.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 15, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, together with a private letter, reporting that the Armenian prisoners at Angora have been sent to Yuzgat for trial. I have instructed Mr. Cumberbatch to do his best to get accurate reports of the trials at Yuzgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, July 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that all the Armenian prisoners, fifteen in number, that have been awaiting their trial at Angora, were sent to Yuzgat on the 6th instant, where their cases will be heard before the ordinary Court.

The reason assigned for this step are the difficulties in the way of bringing the witnesses here from Yuzgat and places nearer to that town than to Angora. This is so, perhaps, at present, owing to the quarantine recently established, but as most of these prisoners have been here for several months, their cases could have been settled some time ago had there been an inclination to do so.

By this move the wishes of Her Majesty's Embassy, that I should personally attend these trials, cannot be carried out, but I have made arrangements by which I hope to be accurately informed of what takes place at Yuzgat in connection with these proceedings.

In the meantime, I beg leave to annex herewith a Memorandum, giving particulars about these prisoners who have been referred to in several despatches from this Consulate.

In my despatch of the 8th January, I ventured to express my view of the case of Gaspar Lordoglou and his four companions, but as no hearing of the two other cases mentioned in my Memorandum has taken place here, I am not in a position to form an opinion as to what weight there is in the charges brought against the other men, the evidence against whom is, I think, very meagre.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

Memorandum.

ARMENIANS in Angora prison conveyed to Yuzgat on the 6th July, 1894:—

1. Gaspar Lordoglou, of Hadji-Keui, with his father, Ohannes, his uncle, Agop, his brother-in-law, Avédis, and his companion, Séropé Téinian.

The case of these men has been fully reported in my despatches of the 12th December, 1893, and of the 8th January last.

2. Derbab Saritchobanian, Hagop Djindjian, Mighirditch Keshishian, Artin deli Manoukian, and Artin Djafarian, all of Ghémérek, and to whom must be added Ohan Hampar, Mudir of that place.

The case of these men has been referred to in my despatches of the 4th and 11th November, 1893, and of the 3rd and 9th March, 1894.

3. Simonoglou Artin, of Karatchair (Maden), Kara Oustaoglou Kara Dédé, of Karayacoub (Maden), Hatcheroglou Avenk, of Yuzgat, and Koupcoglou Ohannes, of Cesarea.

These four men, with a brother of the last-named subsequently released, were brought to Angora about the first week in May last from Ak-dagh Maden. Their case is somewhat similar to that of Gaspar Lordoglou. They were convicted last year, by the Court at Maden, of having taken part in the waylaying and murder of the Maden post-carrier and the zaptieh escorting him. Subsequent to their conviction, two other men, Gulbeuk and Teross, were found guilty of this crime by the Angora Court, and hanged. This fact came to light in the course of investigations, and a fresh trial before the Court of Appeal here was ordered, but up to the present no progress had been made in the matter.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Angora, July 10, 1894.

Inclosure 3 in No. 176.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)

Dear Sir Philip Currie, *Angora, July 10, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date, the Turks have discovered a clearer way out of an uncomfortable position.

It had evidently been decided in high quarters that all these men were to be condemned, whether guilty or not, in accordance with the policy pursued all through this business, but as they have little or no evidence of any weight it would be difficult to do so when they know that I turn up at all the sittings, and am in a position to report fully about the proceedings. It is certain that my presence in Court contributed greatly to the acquittal of A. Gaidzakian (despatch of the 10th November,

1893), who was exceptionally lucky in escaping, as there was almost as much evidence against him as there had been against another fellow, D. Gulbenkian, who had got ten years a few months previously on an almost identical charge. Then the prisoner Gaspar is encouraged by my presence to make awkward charges of cruelty against officials, and to speak up much more than will be the case at Yuzgat.

I hope to get correct information in due course, and they can at least be thankful that they are not to fall into Mustapha Pasha's clutches; but their chances of acquittal are very meagre. The witness difficulty comes in useful, and at the present moment at least has to be admitted, but it is certainly not the main reason for the prisoners' removal.

They tried very hard to get them to the Yuzgat court-martial last winter, and even sent them off, but had to bring them back again (despatch of the 9th March).

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 177.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 348.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 24, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, suggesting that Mr. Hallward, after taking up his post at Van, should be authorized to visit Bitlis and Moush, and to recommend Mr. Graves' suggestion to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, July 12, 1894.

Sir,

THE accounts which have reached me lately from trustworthy private sources of the present condition of affairs at Bitlis are so deplorable, and the oppression and exactions of the Vali Tahsin Pasha are said to have assumed such proportions, that I venture to think it desirable that your Excellency should be more fully and accurately informed on the subject.

I would therefore suggest that Mr. Hallward, after taking up his post at Van, should be authorized to visit Bitlis and Moush, returning to Van round the north and east shores of the lake. This journey would occupy about twenty-five to thirty days, including halts, and would entail an expenditure not exceeding 50*l*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 178.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 245.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 31, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 348 of the 24th instant, recommending the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum that, in view of the deplorable state of affairs in the Van district, Mr. Hallward, after taking up his post as Vice-Consul at Van, should be authorized to visit Bitlis and Moush, and I have to request your Excellency to inform Mr. Graves that I sanction the proposed journey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 179.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 354.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 218 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to state that I had already received from the Rev. Mr. Dwight, Honorary Secretary of the Bible House at Constantinople, a copy of the document relating to the treatment of the Protestants in Turkey, which was communicated to your Lordship by the Evangelical Alliance.

This paper was also sent to the German Ambassador, the United States' Minister, and the Dutch and Swedish Ministers, with a request for their support.

After conferring with the above-named Representatives and ascertaining that they were authorized by their Governments to make representations on behalf of the Protestants, I prepared the note of which a copy is inclosed, and which, as your Lordship will observe, is couched in general terms, as an identic note to be presented by the five Powers.

The German Ambassador, to whom I showed it in the first instance, entirely concurred in its terms, but was of opinion that it would be better that each Power should make a separate representation on its own account, as the dislike entertained at the Porte to concerted action on the part of the Powers might possibly lead them to ignore altogether an identic note. He said that his instructions were to give a general support to any steps that might be taken by Her Majesty's Embassy on behalf of the Protestants, and he promised, if I sent in my note, at once to support it verbally, and, if necessary, to follow up this action by a written representation.

I then communicated with the Netherland Minister, who is at present in charge of Swedish interests, and it was agreed between us that he should send written representations in the sense, though not in the exact terms, of my note.

The American Minister, to whom I also handed my draft, expressed his readiness to co-operate, but said that when discussing the question of the Protestant congregations in Turkey on his recent visit to Washington with Mr. Gresham, the latter had said that, although he was willing in so good a cause to depart from the rule usually acted upon by the American Government of avoiding any interference in the affairs of another nation, he would wish to be furnished beforehand with the text of any representation on the subject which the Minister might propose to make in writing to the Porte.

Mr. Terrell must, therefore, he said, postpone his action until he had had time to submit the draft of a note to his Government, and to receive their reply, but he promised to do so without loss of time.

My note was handed to Said Pasha on the 28th instant by Mr. Block, who informed his Excellency that our action would be supported by the other Protestant Powers. Said Pasha said that the note would be at once referred to the Grand Vizier and Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Embassy, acting under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, has the honour to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the serious difficulties experienced by native Protestants in Turkey in the free exercise of their religious worship.

These difficulties appear to have arisen from the measure proposed by the Sublime Porte in 1892, under which all Christian schools and places of worship were to be closed which did not within three months obtain official permits. Prior to that date the Protestants, in common with other Christians in Turkey, had been in the habit of assembling for worship in chapels or private houses, and their schools were not interfered with. But of late there has been a great change in the treatment of these matters by the local authorities.

The Protestants have been forbidden in many cases to meet for public worship except in buildings authorized by Imperial Firmans, and in the absence of such

Firmans, the grant of which has been withheld, they have been prevented on various pretexts from meeting temporarily in their schools or parsonages. The schools have also been closed for educational purposes, and the result has been that congregations have been entirely deprived of the privilege of meeting for worship, and the children have remained untaught.

Representations have been repeatedly addressed to the Sublime Porte by Her Majesty's Embassy respecting the cases of Ordou and Fatza, where the grievances above described have been most severely felt. In the former case orders were actually sent to allow the Protestants to worship in the house of their pastor, but these orders were withdrawn in consequence of popular tumults and attacks upon the building where the Protestants had been authorized to meet.

In the case of Fatza nothing whatever has been done.

Her Majesty's Embassy is instructed to remind the Porte of its Treaty obligations in regard to the freedom and outward exercise of all forms of worship in the Ottoman dominions, and to urge in the strongest terms that the protection which the Protestants have a right to claim should be accorded to them, that Firmans for the erection of churches and chapels should no longer be refused, and that, in the absence of such buildings, authorization for the temporary celebration of worship in suitable houses should be granted.

Therapia, July 27, 1894.

No. 180.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 355.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 30, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 217 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your Lordship's wish, I instructed the Acting First Dragoman of this Embassy to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the lawless acts committed by the Kurds on the Christians in the mountainous districts of the Vilayet of Mosul.

Mr. Block left with his Highness a Memorandum of the facts, and urged him to cause inquiry to be made into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 181.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 365.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 8, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora; also of a private letter which I have received from the same gentleman reporting the elevation of the Vali of that province to the rank of Vizier, with some observations as to the probable effect on the Armenian disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, August 1, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Memdouh Boy, Governor-General of this vilayet, has been raised to the rank of Vizier, presumably for his services in connection with recent events in the district of Yozgat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

My dear Sir Philip Currie, *Angora, August 1, 1894.*

THE elevation of our Vali to the rank of Vizier was anticipated in my letter of the 17th May, where I mentioned my opinion that his object in magnifying the Armenian troubles was to obtain the credit of putting down what he chose to call a "revolution." Now that he has obtained the desired object of his ambition, I think there is a chance of his modifying his policy towards Armenians, and I should not be surprised if the Sultan pardoned a good many of the men sentenced by the court-martial of Yozgat, and proclaimed an amnesty as was done after the great Angora trial last year.

The hatred that exists here and in the districts affected by recent events between Turks and Armenians leaves little hope of a satisfactory reconciliation being effected as long as the present policy of oppression continues. The breach is being widened every day, and very little provocation would be necessary to bring about further conflicts similar to the Yozgat ones. I place little or no confidence in the loyalty of the Armenians towards the Sultan, but on the other hand every pretext is given them to be dissatisfied with the treatment they receive from officials high and low.

The abstention of so many members of the Armenian Council at Constantinople was not a surprise to their friends here, who believe that it was "fear" that motived their absence from the meeting.

Both in official circles here and among Armenians some move on the part of the Government seems expected, and in the meantime the delay in the decision as to the Yozgat sentences is not understood.

News as to the departure of the Catholicos on his supposed contemplated visit to St. Petersburgh is anxiously looked out for by Armenians, who evidently hope for something or other in that direction.

I have heard nothing further about the Mixed Commission I mentioned in my letter of the 30th June, but I see by the papers that a Commission has been appointed in connection with the revision of the system of property taxation, and it is probable that this gave rise to the report I communicated as such to your Excellency.

The chief grievance in connection with this matter is the uncertainty of the value of property owing to the irregular and arbitrary mode of estimation, and to the total absence of anything like a "cadastre."

No information has reached me yet as to the fate of the fifteen prisoners sent from this place to Yozgat, but I have little or no hope of their acquittal.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 182.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 253.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 15, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 354 of the 13th ultimo, inclosing copy of a note which your Excellency addressed to the Porte relative to the difficulties which have recently arisen in Turkey in regard to religious liberty, and calling their special attention to the position of the Greek Protestants at Ordou and Fatza, in the Province of Trebizond. Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the note in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 183.

Acting Consul-General Blech to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 22. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, August 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, respecting the taking over of the working of the late Smyrna and Cassaba Railway by the "Régie pour la Construction et l'Exploitation des Chemins de Fer."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. BLECH.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Acting Consul-General Blech to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Smyrna, August 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have to-day received the visit of M. Chenu, the representative of the "Régie pour la Construction et l'Exploitation des Chemins de Fer," which has, as from the evening of the 26th ultimo, taken over the working of the late Smyrna and Cassaba Railway. M. Chenu stated to me that his Society (the President of which is Count Vitalis) had entered into a contract with the "New Smyrna and Cassaba Extensions Railway Company" for the working of the line; but he did not inform me of the terms, nor of the duration of this contract, which, however, I believe to be a thirty years' lease. He stated that the Society was working in partnership with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and that he was well satisfied that the concern, in its present state, was likely to yield a sufficient remuneration; and that the guarantee offered by the Ottoman Government on the extensions was large enough to promise a lucrative return. He did not, however, enter into any details.

I understand from Mr. Baines, the General Manager of the old line, that M. Chenu has assured him that his services, as well as those of the other members of the former staff, many of whom are Englishmen, will be retained by the new management; and that it is at present proposed that the substitution of the French language for English in the accountancy, and on carriages, tickets, placards, stationery, &c., shall be gradually carried into effect upon the exhaustion of the existing stock of the various articles.

I would beg leave to add that this Society is also engaged in the construction of the railway line from Constantinople to Salonica viâ Dede Agatch.

I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. BLECH.

No. 184.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 10, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 200 of the 20th June, I have the honour to report that the Court of Cassation has confirmed the sentences on the Armenians of Devek Maden, mentioned in Mr. Cumberbatch's despatch of the 30th May. Under these circumstances, I fear that any intervention on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy would be useless, and I propose to reserve any influence that can be exercised in favour of the Armenian prisoners for cases which have not yet been confirmed by the higher Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 185.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 368.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 11, 1894.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 232 of the 31st ultimo, requesting information as to the fate of the Armenians who were sentenced to death at Yuzgat, I have the honour to report that no decision has yet been taken, but that as far as I can learn it is not likely that the sentences will be carried into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 186.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 369. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 11, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 316 of the 27th June, I have the honour to report that I have received information that the Sultan has issued an Iradé for the election of a *locum tenens* at the Armenian Patriarchate, but that, in spite of the pressure which has been exercised by the Minister of Public Worship and the Minister of Police upon the Armenian Notables and the officers of the Patriarchate, the latter decline to meet for any election, stating that such election is irregular while the Firmans of former Sultans sanctioning the constitution of the elective bodies of the Patriarchate remain in abeyance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 187.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 372.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 11, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 368 of to-day's date, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a Memorandum I have received from a trustworthy source on the state of affairs at Yuzgat. My informant adds that hundreds of people will be starving in that district three or four months' hence unless means can be found to conclude the proceedings of the "Court," and to allow business to be resumed in that region.

I propose, when a suitable opportunity occurs, to bring the facts reported in this Memorandum to the notice of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Memorandum.

Notes from Yuzgat.

THE prolongation of the period during which the military lines about the city cut off communication with the villagers has produced the greatest misery among the Christian population of Yuzgat. Trade has been interrupted thus during seven months. People who had means are financially ruined; those who were accustomed to earn a livelihood by daily labour are selling their household utensils for bread, and all classes are looking forward with terror to the advent of the winter season, for they have neither the means nor the

opportunity to prepare the usual food and other supplies. A terrible famine is all that they can expect unless the prohibition of travel is instantly raised, and the prisoners held under suspicion are set free at once.

The prisoners number some 200. They are confined in the ordinary prison, in a "khaw" of the city, in the sub-structure of the Milhieh building, in the magazines under the Court-house, and in the wood house of the Court-house. The larger part of them have been in prison for more than six months. The prisoners receive a small loaf of bread a-piece each day, but the smallness of the ration leaves them hungry. Sometimes it fails altogether, and they have to depend upon charity for food.

Many of these prisoners claim to be innocent of any crime, and the claim gathers consistency from the long delay to pass any sentence upon them. Others have been imprisoned upon the declaration of Mahommedan neighbours whose testimony has not been subjected to scrutiny. Others are held upon testimony extorted by harsh usage from Christians. Others are these same witnesses, imprisoned because they declared before the Court that the testimony given by them at the preliminary investigation was extorted by violence. Some of the wealthiest Armenians in Yuzgat are held in prison on suspicion, while their property and business are receiving irreparable damage.

Letters received from some of these prisoners entreat their friends in Constantinople to bring their case to the notice of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

"It is impossible but that the justice of His Majesty will reach our case sooner or later," says one; "but the extreme degree to which the ruin of our mental faculties and of our property has extended leads us to beg for an appeal to be made to His Majesty's attention now. For us the doors of mercy are closed. If we petition the local authorities, the reply is, 'We do not know anything about these things.' If we try to send a Petition to our Sovereign the Sultan, the answer is, 'It is forbidden for you to petition the Sultan.' We are entirely hopeless and bewildered."

The tone of other letters is the same—confidence that if the Sultan only knew the facts he would not allow innocent men and their families to be ruined in this way. There surely must be some way of distinguishing guilty men and letting the innocent go.

No. 188.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 373.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 11, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 285 of the 8th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, with a translation of the Judgment in the Kurubash outrage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, July 20, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, inclosing a translation of the Judgment passed on the persons convicted of the outrage committed at Kurubash about fourteen months ago, reported in Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch of the 10th June, and my despatch of the 26th October, 1893.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, July 7, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation from the Van Vilayet Gazette of the 19th ultimo, containing the sentence passed upon the criminals convicted of murder and other offences committed near Kurubash village fourteen months ago.

In my despatch of the 30th May, 1893, I mentioned that the authorities were inclined to suspect a small band of Armenian malcontents, or outlaws, of being implicated in this crime, and at this moment there is current here a report similar to that recounted in my despatch of the 1st December, 1892, that the chief members of this band, including those sentenced to death, have just come into collision with the police in Persia (probably near Salmas), and that two were killed, whilst two captured are to be extradited to Turkey.

Four Armenian youths attending a school in the Van Gardens were recently arrested, a letter having been found among them addressed to the outlaw Odian containing some expressions as to the seed sown by him and his friends having begun to spring up, but the writer has not yet been ascertained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

P.S.—The rumours herein reported lack any confirmation as yet.

G. P. D.

Inclosure 3 in No. 188.

Extract from the Van Vilayet Gazette of June 19, 1894.

(Translation.)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COURT OF APPEAL, CRIMINAL SECTION.

THE suspects in flight, Odian Kivork, of Cherpaeh-Oglu Mahalleh, in Von, and Terlemezian Panos and Kanken Ohannes, of Shago-Oglu Mahalleh, killed, with premeditation, the villagers of Kurubash named Kivork-Oglu Agob, Sarkis-Oglu Agob, Moyses-Oglu Krikor, and Karib-Oglu Kuli, and committed rape upon Aneman and Sinem, and robbed them of their clothes, and cut off their tresses of hair, in the Toni valley of Van Caza, with intent to disturb the public peace; and, further, the suspect Jizdan Bagdasar, seditiously provided arms and means of correspondence for promoting these designs; and also the Armenians suspected of wicked and treasonable plans, viz., Chilingher Panos, of Tazi-Kehriz Mahalleh in Van; Erekli-Oglu Ohannes, of Uzun-Sukal Mahalleh; Erekli-Oglu Krikor, Keshish-Oglu Garabed, Govand, and Ghazar, are charged with crime of the highest degree ("jinayet"): Now, judgment is passed in their default, viz., that of the above, Odian, Terlemezian, and Kanken, who formed the design of traitorously separating a part of the Ottoman Empire to constitute Armenia in the manner above described, killed and ravished and robbed and cut, for the advancement of their treasonable projects; and as to Jizdan Bagdasar, that he, relying upon these insane ideas, afforded seditiously means of treasonable communication and transport of arms; and as to Govand, Ghazar, Chilingher Panos, Garabed, Erekli-Oglu Ohannes, and Krikor, that they, at various times, had meetings with traitors in the Ajem-Khatcho Keoshk to discuss and decide on treason, of which there is sure proof and evidence; therefore, according to the first paragraph of the 54th Article of the Criminal Law, the aforesaid Odian, Terlemezian, and Kanken are sentenced to death; and Jizdan Bagdasar, by the second paragraph of the same law, to fifteen years' imprisonment; whilst Govand and Ghazar, according to the second paragraph of the 58th Article of the same Law, to six years; and Chilingher Panos, Garabed, Erekli-Oglu Ohannes, and Krikor, by the same second paragraph, to three years' imprisonment ("kala-bend" = interned in a fortress), and all are deprived of civil rights and have their property confiscated; this sentence being pronounced on the 27th April, 1310 (9th May, 1894), in their default by flight.

No. 189.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 378.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 13, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 333 of the 9th July, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of an extract of a private letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzerorm respecting the Kurdish raid on the village of Talori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, July 27, 1894.*

I HAVE received to-day further private confirmation from the Bitlis side of Boyajian's version of the Talori affair. There are, however, one or two interesting additions to the story. According to this informant, the Bitlis Government, regarding the Armenians of Talori and other villages in the Sasson region as disaffected, had secretly encouraged the Kurds to pick a quarrel with them and attack them in force. But the Talori men made a very obstinate defence, and killed a large number of the attacking Kurds, and the survivors are said to be very angry at being led into such an unprofitable business. This Sasson country has never been thoroughly subdued by the Turks, and the Kurdish inhabitants (of another tribe to those who attacked Talori) have maintained a kind of independence, and tax the few Armenian villages, whose inhabitants they regard as their vassals, furnishing neither recruits nor taxes to the Government. Armenian agitators have been busy in this no-man's-land of late years, and have found a good field for intrigue. It is said that there are quite a number of these dangerous characters, chiefly Russian Armenians, in Sasson, and that they probably organized the resistance of the Talori people. It would seem as if the Bitlis Government had at last resolved to destroy this hornet's nest, and as the country is very inaccessible, and easily defended, and the inhabitants armed and desperate, further serious fighting would have taken place if orders had not come from Constantinople to pursue a more conciliatory policy. It would appear as if the district was now in a state of blockade, and things may perhaps simmer down quietly into their former condition when the recent excitement has blown over. Sasson is the local name for the wildest and most mountainous part of the Guendj Sandjak of Bitlis Vilayet, and is not an administrative division.

No. 190.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 379.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 13, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of an extract from a private letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the trial, which is expected shortly to take place, of several Armenians in that town.

I instructed Mr. Block to read the greater part of this extract to the Grand Vizier. His Highness took note of the facts, and said that he had already some information on the subject, and would speak to the Minister of Justice about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, July 27, 1894.*

I AM sorry to say we are threatened with a big political trial here, such as has not been seen at Erzeroum for some time, owing to the misplaced zeal of the Chief Commissary of Police here, one Kiazim Bey. He has obtained from an Armenian informer the names of a large number of alleged conspirators in the Khinis Caza of Erzeroum, and warrants have been issued for about sixty, who are to be brought here as soon as may be. The former Cadi and Procureur-Général of Erzeroum were dismissed three or four months ago, as I reported at the time, in consequence of an intrigue of Kiazim Bey's in connection with this very case. They had prevented him from carrying out these arrests as entirely useless, and calculated to create trouble and panic. The informer is a worthless scoundrel, who, from his prison, is even now blackmailing respectable Armenians who are ready to pay small sums to avoid appearing on his list. Now, it is to be feared, that the new Judicial authorities will become Kiazim Bey's instruments in the matter, rather than share the fate of their too upright predecessors.

This case is too complicated to report on until I have obtained further details, and am sure of the arrest of the sixty Armenians above mentioned. Some say they have only been summoned as witnesses, but I shall know all about that in a few days. The new Vali, whatever his shortcomings may be, does not seem to show any desire to aggravate the Armenian question by undue severity, and I have some hopes that he may induce his pestilent Chief of Police to let sleeping dogs lie.

No. 191.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 382.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 369, Confidential, I have the honour to report that on Tuesday last, the 14th instant, after much pressure from the Ministers of Public Worship and Police, a meeting was held at the Patriarchate for the election of a *locum tenens* of the Armenian Patriarch.

There were present the Archbishop Ohanesian, who presided; the Vicar of the Patriarchate, Djevahirdjian; four members of the Ecclesiastical Council; Dikran Effendi, the Vice-President; and six members of the "Conseil Laïque."

Mgr. Himayag, a former Vicar of the Patriarch at Rodosto, and now Vicar of a church in the Psamatia district of Stamboul, was elected, but it is doubtful whether he will be accepted generally by the Armenians, as the elective body was not properly constituted according to the Firman.

The new *locum tenens* is a man of pleasing manners and conciliatory address, but is entirely without party or influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 192.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 384.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 22, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding an interesting account by Mr. Hallward of his journey to Van.

Mr. Hallward's experiences show the country between Erzeroum and Van to be in a very disturbed condition, and I propose to communicate the substance of his despatch verbally to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 9, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Hallward, reporting his arrival at Van and his having entered on the duties of his post there on the 30th ultimo. Mr. Hallward also gives an interesting description of his journey from Erzeroum to Van, and of the condition of the districts traversed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, July* 31, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here yesterday and assumed the duties of this Vice-Consulate.

I came from Erzeroum by the direct summer route over the Pahan Duken Pass, through the Tekman district, across the Araxes (Pasin Son), and over the Tektap Dag to the plain of Khinis, skirting the east side of which I arrived at the village of Karacholan, thence over the Khinis Son to the east end of the plain of Boulanik. From thence the route lay across the Euphrates a little to the north-east of Melazgird to the village of Karakaya, whence over grassy hills, serving as summer pasturage to the Kurds, to the plain of Patnotz, which lies on the north-east side of Subhan Dag, the highest mountain of this region. We passed some way to the south of the village of Patnotz. At the south-east end of this plain the Vilayet of Van begins, and after crossing another range of hills the road descends to the shores of the lake and continues in an easterly direction to the village of Agantz or Ardish, the seat of a Kaïmakam, where a large number of Hamidié officers are at present quartered. The majority of the inhabitants of this caza are Kurds, but from Merik, on the south side of the eastern arm of the lake, as far as Van, the Armenian element largely predominates.

The names above mentioned are all marked on Kiepert's map. The journey occupied eight days on horseback, the route being impracticable for carriages; it is passable in summer only, and is little frequented by natives owing to its insecurity.

The Tekman district, from the Pahan Duken to the Tektap Pass, consists chiefly of grassy uplands, and is, as far as I saw, entirely Kurdish. At this season many of the villages are quite empty, as the inhabitants go and live in tents on the mountains to look after their sheep and cattle. The plain of Khinis contains both Kurdish and Armenian villages, and a good deal of it is under cultivation. The same applies to the plain of Boulanik, which is in the Vilayet of Bitlis, and to the country between that and Patnotz, though the Kurdish element predominates. The south side of the plain of Patnotz through which I passed is little cultivated and only contains a few small and miserable Kurdish villages, but there are some Armenian villages on the north side. The country between Erzeroum and Patnotz is the district of the Hassananly tribe of Kurds, whose head-quarters are at Divrik, a large village close to the Euphrates near Karakaya. Patnotz is the head-quarters of the Haideranly Kurds, who extend thence to the Lake of Van. Both districts are extremely insecure, and Armenian and Kurdish villagers alike complain of the depredations and violence of these marauding tribes. The peasants are afraid to go outside their villages for fear of being robbed or killed; their sheep and cattle are constantly being stolen, and the Kurds come at night and cut and carry away their crops. The same complaints were made in every village I passed except in the Tekman district, which, being near the capital of the vilayet, is perhaps better protected.

The Armenian villagers are at a peculiar disadvantage, as they are strictly forbidden to carry arms, which is a terrible disability in such a country, as they are thus placed completely at the mercy of the Kurds, who are not slow to take advantage of their defenceless position. It may be that they occasionally succeed in concealing arms in their houses, but they dare not carry them outside, and as a matter of personal

observation I found that anywhere on the road between this and Trebizond one could almost always distinguish a Moslem from a Christian by the fact of the former, however poor, carrying arms of some sort, while the latter never carried anything more formidable than a stick. Should a Christian be seen with arms he is at once liable to arrest and accusations of murder or revolt, with indefinite penalties of exile or imprisonment.

The second day of my journey I arrived at the Armenian village of Kozlou, on the east side of the plain of Khinis, which is a Kaïmakamlik in the Vilayet of Erzeroum. An hour after my arrival a well-dressed Circassian (Moslem), an emigrant from the Caucasus, now domiciled at Melazgird, came into the village on horseback in a state of great excitement, and said that about an hour's distance from the village on the road by which we had come he and his three companions had been attacked by a band of thirteen Kurds, and that his companions had been killed and plundered, while he had managed to escape; he had brought with him a lance belonging to one of the Kurds by way of "pièce de conviction." Part of his statement was disproved half-an-hour later by the appearance of two more Circassians who came on foot, but they confirmed the story of the attack, one of them being slightly wounded, and both having lost their horses. The fourth was in fact killed, and I saw his body the next day. It appeared that they had gone to Erzeroum to sell some horses, and were returning to Melazgird, when some Kurds who presumably had knowledge of the transaction attacked them and carried off the price of the horses, which was in possession of the man who was killed. The villagers did not appear to attach much importance to the incident, their village itself had been raided two months before by Kurds, and one of their number killed, and the spot where the attack took place has always had a bad reputation for insecurity, as shown by its name—Kanli Déré (Bloody Valley).

The next night we camped on the banks of the Khinis Son, a little south of a place marked Kirmizi Touzla on the map, where was a settlement of Kurds partly in tents and partly in mud huts; this was at the east end of the plain of Boulanik, in the Bitlis Vilayet. The next day we came to the Armenian village of Nureddin, near Melazgird; the villagers said that formerly a good many travellers came that way from Erzeroum to Van, but that latterly the route had fallen into disfavour owing to the insecurity caused by the aforesaid Kurds on the river. A zaptieh in the village, himself a Kurd, asked me to take him into my service, as he said that he seldom got any pay, and was perfectly useless in his present post, as the Kurds simply laughed at the zaptiehs if they attempted to arrest them. The increase of crime and lawlessness in the last two years is due to the formation of the "Hamidié" regiments. The Kurds have been enrolled wholesale, and now consider themselves outside the jurisdiction of the civil authorities, a theory which they at present put into practice with great success. The result of conferring rank and title on the greatest malefactors in the country, such as Fethullah Bey of Divrik, Hussein Pasha of Patnotz, and Emin Pasha of Ardish, is only too apparent in the present state of the country.

On leaving the village of Karakaya we were accosted by a party of poor Armenians, consisting of an old man with his son and daughter-in-law carrying a baby in arms, a grandson, also with his wife and a baby, another woman with two boys, and another man who had left his family behind, and was going to try and find a more suitable residence; he said he had been robbed three times in the last month. The old man had another son settled in Russia, and was going to join him with the rest of the family, if he could not find work elsewhere. They were evidently miserably poor, the women walking barefooted, and having nothing with them but bundles on their backs, but they were afraid to proceed without protection, and begged to be allowed to accompany us, which they did for the rest of the day.

At the next place we came to, a small and very dirty Kurdish village in the plain of Patnotz (Erzeroum Vilayet), an old Kurd begged me to impress on the Vali that there would be no peace in the country as long as Hussein Pasha and Emin Pasha were there; this is no doubt true, but their removal would do little good unless they were really punished, as their sons and relations would continue the same course of conduct.

Near the village of Zirekli, in the Caza of Eljevaz (Vilayet of Van), I was met by a young Kurd named Tamir Aga, son of a famous brigand named Hamzu, who was killed in a quarrel with other Kurds some two years ago. This young man, who was in camp near the village, began to follow in his father's footsteps, and a few months ago the Vali of Van sent troops after him, but failed to catch him. He asked me to intercede with the Vali for his pardon, promising to reform. His Excellency is away at present, and I have therefore not had the opportunity of mentioning the

matter to him. I do not suppose that in any case Tamir Aga need fear very severe treatment, as he is a Captain in a Hamidié regiment.

Before arriving at the Armenian village of Pani, in the Caza of Ardish, we met a party of Kurds carrying a wounded man, and evidently in rather an excited state. They said they had on the previous night, on their way home from Ardish, asked for hospitality at a house in Pani, and had been refused and very roughly handled by the Armenians. On inquiry at Pani we found that in fact they had attempted to obtain hospitality by knocking down the door and making a hole in the roof of a house in the middle of the night, a proceeding which had been resented by the Armenians, who succeeded in beating the intruders off without much damage to themselves. The people of Pani at once informed the police of Ardish of the affair, and we met a party of zaptiehs going to the spot to make an inquiry.

A few hours before arriving at Van we met a party of Kurds who had emigrated from the neighbourhood of Kars, and following the same route as ourselves, had been attacked by our Kurdish friends of the Khinis Sou, and had lost one man and four horses in the encounter; they killed, they said, two of the other side. This occurred about a fortnight ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 193.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, August 31, 1894.*

I HAVE been informed at the Porte, in answer to an inquiry, that Armenians at Talori, in the Vilayet of Bitlis, have risen, and that in order to quell the revolt a small number of troops are being sent to the scene.

This inquiry was made after having received a telegram from Mr. Graves at Erzeroum, in which he reported a movement of troops supposed to be in connection with the affair at Talori, which was the subject of his despatch No. 23 of the 3rd April.

The Grand Vizier also says that movements are going on at Tohat, near Sivas, as well as at Talori, and that the Armenian Revolutionary Committees are clearly proved to be organizers of them.

No. 194.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 271.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 372 of the 11th instant, forwarding a Memorandum on the distress prevalent at Yuzgat, and I approve your Excellency's proposal to bring to the notice of the Porte the facts stated in this paper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 195.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 273.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 379 of the 13th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a communication from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum with regard to the proceedings of Kiazim Bey, Chief Commissary of Police, in connection with an expected trial of Armenians in that town.

I approve the action taken by your Excellency in bringing this matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 196.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 3, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 141, Sassoon revolt is confirmed by a telegram from Mr. Graves at Erzeroum, who adds that the movement of troops continues, and that three regiments of Kurdish irregular cavalry, with Hussein Pasha, a Kurdish Chief, are expected to join the troops at Mush.

Hussein was arrested and brought to Erzeroum last June, but has now been released.

A strong protest against employing irregular troops to suppress the disturbances was at once addressed to the Grand Vizier by me.

No. 197.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 3, 1894, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 143 respecting the revolt of Armenians at Sassoon, the following information has been given me by the Grand Vizier.

The Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps, Mushir Taki Pasha, has received instructions personally to proceed from Erzinghian to Talori to restore order, together with a sufficient number of regular troops for the purpose.

He has the strictest injunctions to see that no excesses are committed.

In place of the regulars, Mush will be garrisoned by three squadrons (not regiments) of Hamidieh cavalry; but these will not enter the districts where the disturbances have arisen.

No. 198.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1894.*

IN my letter of the 31st July you were informed that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople would be requested to obtain, if possible, precise intelligence with regard to the Armenians sentenced to death at Yuzgat.

I am directed to state that his Excellency has reported, in a despatch dated the 11th ultimo, that no decision has yet been taken as to the fate of these prisoners, but that, so far as he can learn, the sentences are not likely to be carried into effect.

Lord Kimberley thinks that, in the interest of the prisoners, it will be better not to make any public announcement of this statement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 199.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 4, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 143 of the 2nd instant relative to the rising at Sasson, and I approve the representations which you have made to the Grand Vizier.

No. 200.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 5, 1894, 7 P.M.*

INSTRUUCTIONS have been sent from Constantinople to Yozgat ordering the release of all the Armenians—about 170 in number—who had been sentenced to imprisonment by the court-martial. A new investigation is to be made into the cases of seventeen men condemned to death.

The above was reported to me to-day by telegraph from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora.

No. 201.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 7, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 150 of the 5th instant, informing me of the orders given in regard to the Armenians sentenced by the Yuzgat court-martial.

I have to request you to express to the Turkish Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received this intelligence, and to state that this exhibition of clemency on the part of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan cannot fail to produce a favourable impression in this country.

No. 202.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 397.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 386 of the 22nd ultimo, I have now the honour to forward a Memorandum, which has been drawn up by Mr. Devey, late Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, on the condition of the Nestorian Christians in the Hekkiari district, and the complaints which have been put forward by their Patriarch, Marshimun.

Mr. Devey's opinion is that no exceptional pressure has been put upon the Christian population, and that the strained relations between Marshimun and the Vali are not entirely due to the conduct of the latter.

Mr. Devey's recommendations, especially as to the establishment of a "Vekil," or Agent, in Constantinople, who would be an intermediary between him and the Sublime Porte, seem to me judicious, but I shall await your Lordship's instructions before taking any action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Memorandum respecting the Complaints from Hekkiari.

THE subject may be reviewed under the following five heads, viz., that—

I. New taxes are to be imposed which the people are too poor to support.
II. Local authorities oppress in Hekkiari, and are powerless to protect the inhabitants.
III. Marshimun's personal complaints.
IV. Mr. Browne's presence at Kochanes.
V. Suggestions for a remedy, and the status of Marshimun.

I.

Nearly six months ago the Van Government began to take a census of the Hekkiari population, as almost all other districts of the Empire have been enrolled by now at various times, and this undertaking was received very adversely, and in a spirit of factious opposition, which has here and there resulted in some petty tumults; but the census is being gradually carried through, and no doubt will be in the end made successfully.

Undeniably the people of Hekkiari are exceedingly poor—poorer even than their fellows in neighbouring districts, and the introduction of the census, involving the presumption that existing taxes will be in future more systematically levied, has led them to apprehend that they will no longer be able to get a livelihood, seeing that the total sum levied on the district in taxes of all kinds will no doubt be raised.

During the last few months the wildest rumours, resting on no foundation whatever, of projected new taxes, and merciless exaction of them by Government, have been purposely spread in the district, but the anticipated heavier taxation will probably be exerted in the following manner:—

(*a.*) The only new tax is an annual one of 1 piastre on every individual in the country, in return for which he receives a "Hamidiyyeh tezkereh," or registration certificate, which is necessary to the assertion of his rights as an Ottoman subject, especially when away from home.

(*b.*) Military exemption tax. A new law declares that this shall be levied by grouping the inhabitants to pay 5,000 piastres for every 135 males. Possibly the custom has obtained in parts of Hekkiari, as formerly elsewhere, that young boys and men of upwards of 60 years of age escaped payment.

(*c.*) Certain of the "Verghi" property taxes will in future be regularly demanded which it has not been customary to levy.

(*d.*) And also tithes on various produce, such as hemp, or may be garden stuff, &c., trifling matters, but irksome to the grower, as a sum of money is estimated. The corn tithe is not being raised, but, as elsewhere, is one in eight and a-half.

Among the Nestorians there has been an attitude of passive resistance to the census. The Anglican missionaries state Marshimun's opinion to be that "the census will certainly ruin the whole of the Syrian people, and involve him in still deeper penury." It is not unlikely, therefore, that he may have advised his people to protest, but he cannot be charged in fairness with having encouraged them to violent resistance. Unfortunately, just after Eastertide a considerable gathering (some 600 to 700) of tribal Nestorians met at Kochanes for various purposes, many having come, as they do annually, merely to congratulate their Patriarch after the Lenten fast, but false reports were at once spread that Marshimun was placing himself at the head of a small revolt. The gathering melted away in two or three days quite quietly.

With respect to the Kurds, however, who have upon one or two occasions actually ventured upon petty attempts at armed resistance, and who are, I believe, the original authors of the recent demonstrations against the census enrolment, and have egged on or forced the Nestorians (by no means unwilling) to join with them, their fear is that they are going to be summoned for the conscription, which they would resist to the point of revolt. No Government announcement or even hint has been breathed on the subject.

It must be remembered that the Kurds are classed, at all events for local purposes, in two categories, "Ashiret" and "Rayah." The latter, often agricultural, living in the plain, and subject to the conscription, are very miserably off. I think there are also "Rayah" Kurds who pay the military exemption tax like Christians, whilst the former, generally nomads and pastoral, give no conscripts. In Hekkiari, if a line be roughly drawn from a point near Govar westwards, and along the Botan River to near Sert, it will be found that the Kurds resident in the mountains south of this line, even when not recognized as "Ashiret," have never yielded conscripts.

The Government have of course no intention of imposing the conscription upon the "Ashiret" Kurds, who are being enrolled in the Hamidiyyeh regiments. But those Kurds, who choose to consider themselves as "Ashiret," without being really nomadic in their life, and not being recognized as such by the Government, ought indeed either to furnish conscripts or to pay the exemption tax; still there are places where it would be practically impossible to enforce this, at present.

This idea has been gradually introduced and worked out, by pressure and persuasion, in parts of the Vilayets of Bitlis, Van, and Erzeroum, during the last few years.

In conclusion, too much attention has been paid to the exaggerated stories current a little while ago, among both the Kurds and Christians of Hekkiari, and to the factitious complaints and demonstrations.

There has been nothing in the shape of a general exodus, but a few Kurds or Turkish families from villages on the border, to escape enrolment, have crossed into Persia, whilst some fifteen or twenty Nestorian families, proposing to emigrate, were turned back in Gevar.

To avoid further difficulties as to census-taking, it would be well that Marshimun's voluntary adhesion to this step should be notified among his tribesmen, and that the Nestorians in his immediate vicinity should be at once enrolled. At the same time, if it be proposed to bring the matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte, I would humbly venture to suggest that, in consideration of the extreme poverty in Hekkiari, the Porte might be recommended to give the local authorities large powers of discretion in the collection of money taxes, and even of remission of some of them for a fixed period; it is hardly a fit moment to call for arrears, as is to-day being commanded generally through the Empire. Any advice offered upon the difficult matter of introducing the conscription would probably be ill-received, but fresh and accurate lists of the Kurdish tribes, recognized as "Ashiret," might be called for.

II.

I beg leave to differ from the opinion that Turkish local authorities oppress the people, with the exception of a thoroughly bad Mudir at Oramar, against whom I heard specific complaints. The Caza Kaimakams at Khoshab, Bashkaleh, and Diza are superior and vigorous men; the first mentioned has just been transferred to a sub-district of Sivas. The Mutessarif, though of a distinguished Kurdish family in Revanduz, is a tyro to the country, and has not made himself respected and obeyed, as the late Governor was, but it must be remembered that he was placed in circumstances of exceptional difficulty through the census-taking, and a first registration is a serious business in any Eastern country. There was some similar trouble in the neighbourhood of Bayazid ten years ago, as reported by Lieutenant-Colonel Everett in 1884.

Mr. Browne, in a private letter to me, once expressed the opinion that the census-taking had been begun too hastily and without due precautions, and that the Vali was to blame for want of tact. Bahri Pasha's character is blunt and frank, and he occasionally acts or pronounces on affairs without due deliberation, but in the present case I venture to think that it was not so. At all events, his Excellency attempted to pave the way for the census when visiting Hekkiari twelve months ago. That it would be a difficult and disagreeable task was well known, and it is said that Aliriza Pasha, the late Mutessarif, wished it should not be done. However, it is certainly to the Vali's credit that he showed no signs of trying to shirk a disagreeable duty which might entail trouble.

Little need be said upon the question of the local authorities being powerless to protect the inhabitants. Generally speaking, very fair order is kept among these uncivilized tribes, considering the natural difficulties presented by the district; but prompter action is sometimes necessary to prevent internal quarrels. A battalion of the line is again patrolling among the nomads, who migrate to the Hekkiari mountains, an excellent measure, which ought to be resorted to every year. The military posts all along the Persian frontier might still be strengthened with advantage, and small patrols pass occasionally from station to station throughout the summer.

III.

Marshimun's personal complaints are to the effect that, for about two years, the Local Government have been holding him of small account, whilst supporting and honouring a small fraction of his people, who are notoriously at variance with him, headed by a certain Nimrod, his nephew, so that he is losing prestige and influence among his people, especially the tribesmen. He complains that the local authorities have withheld his salary and do not protect his property, and that he has been deprived of a guard of honour of zaptiehs, besides being subject in several trifling ways to marks of Government displeasure and neglect.

There is some ground for all and every one of these complaints, and Marshimun declares that the attitude of the Local Government towards him has been for upwards

of two years one of studied contempt and neglect. He forgets, however, that he himself has shown no disposition whatever for conciliation, and that he has rejected the olive branch when held out. He has even behaved towards the Vali on one or two occasions in a manner that cannot be qualified as other than contumacious and perverse, in revenge for what he considers to be the slights put upon him.

As to the specific complaints, that his property is not protected, this refers to one or two cases, when his servants have been beaten, and his corn unjustly withheld, by the brothers of Nimrod, and the matter has not yet been investigated; but, if any reconciliation should take place, the prosecution would certainly be dropped.

As to non-payment of salary. On the 20th June Marshimun told me that it was eight months in arrears, but a few days later the Vali assured me that not more than one month's pay was due to him. I forget what precise details were given, but, in any case, Marshimun had not applied for the last three or four months to draw his pay at the local Treasury.

Having from time to time heard a similar complaint at Van, I would generally take an opportunity of mentioning the fact to the Vali, who would answer that some arrangement had been entered into by which Marshimun had consented to receive certain taxes in lieu of salary.

Marshimun would do well to appoint an agent to collect his salary in money only, either at Van or Constantinople, provided the Porte would agree to pay it thus; and such a favour might reasonably be requested from the Finance Ministry, in view of these misunderstandings, and as the salary is held to be an exceptional one, granted by Iradé of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

It would be well, also, that the small guard of honour of two zaptiehs should be allowed to reside in the Patriarch's village, as was the case a few years ago

An examination of these complaints shows that they amount to little more than mere misunderstandings, and that they could easily be swept away by a small amount of right spirit and good-feeling on either side.

IV.

The Rev. Mr. Browne thinks (*vide* Inclosure 5 in No. 223) that the want of cordiality on the part of local authorities towards Marshimun is due in great part to his presence at Kochanes. Within the last three months the Vali has spoken to me twice about Mr. Browne's having taken upon himself to advise and interfere in matters in which he had no concern. From what Mr. Browne himself says with respect to the census, one can but imagine that the Vali has been informed that Mr. Browne has encouraged Marshimun to protest against it and agitate. Whether such be the case or no, that Mr. Browne allows himself to be sometimes carried into error in his too ardent endeavour to ameliorate the condition of the Nestorians, is clear from his remark that "really there are signs of a desire (?) to exterminate the Christians," intimating that such has begun to be the Government policy in Hekkiari.

After the first occasion when the Vali addressed me on this matter, I wrote to Mr. Browne to warn him to be extremely careful in all he said or did, and avoid giving cause for any imputation that he was adviser to Marshimun in civil and political affairs, and no formal complaint had been raised against Mr. Browne. But on the second occasion when the Vali complained in yet stronger terms, I could only reply that I had warned Mr. Browne, and that I could not believe he would have been so careless as to offend again in the same manner, and was occupying himself purely with missionary work.

Probably, however, his Excellency's vexation was due to his having seized a little while before the petition of Marshimun, and a letter addressed to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, which a man, employed as messenger by Mr. Browne between Kochanes and Urumiah, was carrying surreptitiously into Persia. The arrest of this man was in strict accordance with the passport laws, and one in restraint of carrying letters which should have been received at the Post Office.

In my private opinion, a short temporary absence on the part of Mr. Browne would tend to facilitate the re-establishment of cordial relations between Marshimun and the local authorities, as they were two years ago.

V.

A few weeks ago, when at Kochanes, I was careful to remind Marshimun of what Mr. Vice-Consul Barnham had been at great pains to explain clearly and fully to

him eight years ago (when the Archbishop's mission was entering the field), viz., that the English clergyman's presence among his people was to be taken in no way as a sign that they might consider themselves as specially favoured or under any kind of protection on the part of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, though he, the Vice-Consul, would be ready to receive privately and unofficially any well-founded and just complaint, whether communicated by the missionaries or by the Patriarch himself, to which certainly not less attention would be paid than to the complaints of any other community of Turkish subjects. And on hearing the recapitulation of Marshimun's griefs, it must be allowed that, though trivial in themselves, they might become prejudicial to his people's interests in the end.

Every other Christian community in Turkey has their recognized "Vekil," a Patriarch or "Millet-Bashi," to represent their interests at the capital, but Marshimun, at the head of the ancient Syrian Church and the Nestorian people, has no such agent and no ulterior resource after bringing a complaint to the notice of the Mutessarif of Hekkiari and the Van Governor-General, and he adds that his complaints made by letter or by telegram addressed to the Sultan do not reach their destination.

Neither Marshimun nor any one in his circle is well enough acquainted with the Turkish language to communicate in writing, and he has no clerk or secretary; and with but the scantiest knowledge of the laws of the Empire, he does not even possess a copy of the "Destour;" lastly, there is no fit and qualified person whom he could recommend to be such Vekil or agent for his people, recognized by the Porte, and it would be out of the question to propose that he should move his residence from among his people to reside in the metropolis himself. I, therefore, ventured to suggest, in a private and unofficial capacity, to his Beatitude, that he should procure a capable scribe as soon as possible, and that, as he would be unprepared to name any one to take action on his behalf at Constantinople, he might solicit the Sultan to allow him to put himself in direct communication with His Imperial Majesty's Ministers at intervals when urgent occasion arose; and in case of any future misunderstandings with the local authorities, a channel of redress, or, at all events, a means of notifying his grievance, would thus be open to him.

That the Nestorians, however small their numbers and insignificant their interests may be considered in some quarters, should be excluded from privileges enjoyed by others, *e.g.*, the Orthodox Greeks, Gregorian Armenians, &c., is not in accordance with notions of equity, and the Protestant community was granted the recognition of a "Millet-Bashi" some forty or fifty years ago, which might form a precedent for pressing the present application, in case it should be made by Marshimun and rejected.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van.

Constantinople, August 25, 1894.

No. 203.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 400.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 2, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the circumstances attending the death of some Armenian prisoners at Karahissar. The difference in the two accounts of the same occurrence shows the extreme difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information concerning events of this sort.

A *pro-memoriâ* had been prepared for communication to the Sublime Porte on the receipt of Mr. Longworth's despatch of the 20th ultimo, and was only kept back in order to ascertain from Trebizond whether the name of Mr. Longworth's informant might be mentioned. In the meantime Dr. Jewett's account, derived from Armenian sources, arrived, which gives a totally different complexion to the affair.

Unless I receive instructions from your Lordship, I do not propose to take any action in this case, as the Armenian prisoners seem to have provoked their fate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 203.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, July* 26, 1894.

I ANNEX herewith copies of letters on outrages committed by Ottoman officials on Armenians at Karahissar, in the Sivas Vilayet.

Your Excellency will perceive that Mr. Hickman, the Manager of the British mines at Lidjessy, near Karahissar, corroborates the truth of these atrocities, which makes one not only shudder, but despair of Turkey ever ceasing to employ as agents brutal and villainous types of human beings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 203.

Armenians of Shebin-Karahissar to Consul Longworth.

Sir, *Karahissar, June* 20 (*July* 2), 1894.

THE Christian inhabitants of Turkey, when ill-treated, turn their eyes to those European Powers who consider it their generous duty to protect them. You are aware of the fact that now Christians of Turkey, and especially Armenians, are subjected to heavy hardships and unheard-of depredations and vexations, especially those of the inland districts. Those of Karahissar had up to now suffered, with patience, a great deal of injustice, but lately such occurrences have happened as makes it impossible to pass them over in silence.

On the 5th (17th) May two Armenian women, while proceeding for washing to a place called Asbasa (half-an-hour from Karahissar), were outraged by the son of Agadjouk and his companions, all Government officials. One of the women bit the hand of the culprit, who is still walking about quite unmolested in the streets of Karahissar.

Encouraged by this, later on, two soldiers outraged two other Armenian women while they were going to the Armenian village of Anerzi.

On the 14th (20th) June, a more atrocious incident was caused by the authorities themselves: Four Armenians, imprisoned at Karahissar (two of which were political prisoners), managed to get, through the Mulazim Said Effendi, of the gendarmerie, three revolvers and three daggers. At 11 o'clock (half-past 6 P.M.) they rushed out of the prison, wounding the guard and a zaptieh. The zaptiehs surrounded them in a valley at 10 minutes' distance, arrested them, ill-treated them, and after severely wounding them with bayonets and swords, brought them to the konak, where, during the cross-examinations, seeing that the responsibility would fall on Said Effendi, they decided to kill these Armenians by throwing them down from a height of 6 metres, and stabbing them afterwards. Not being satisfied with these atrocities, they entered the prisons, took out their other two companions, who had never tried to escape, and, after ill-treating them, they killed them, notwithstanding their supplications and tears. All the prisoners, as also the outsiders who heard their cries, would bear witness if they were called before a Court composed of conscientious and Christian members. Owing to this incident, the local authorities have now arrested, without any proofs, several Armenians, whom they ill-treat and place their lives in danger. They openly tell us that they will treat us in the same way. Two of the imprisoned Armenians have been so ill-treated that they fell ill (one of them is Mazmanian Gaspar). The latter was to have been slaughtered on the night of the 14th (26th) June, if his Turkish fellow-prisoners had not saved him from the hands of the zaptiehs.

There being no security for life, property, or honour, we humbly apply, through you, to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, from whom we expect a relief and remedy for our sorrows and misfortunes.

The Armenian population of Karahissar.

Inclosure 3 in No. 203.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Hickman.

Trebizond, July 11, 1894.

Dear Mr. Hickman,

COULD you possibly find out for me what truth there is in the allegations herewith inclosed in the form of a Memorandum taken from an Armenian letter addressed to this Consulate, and thus oblige yours very truly,

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 203.

Memorandum on the alleged Ill-treatment of Armenians at and near Karahissar.

ON the 5th (17th) May two women were outraged on the way to Asbasa, outside Karahissar, by some Government officials, among them Agudjouk's son, who was bitten on the hands by one of the victims. Immunity from punishment encouraged, later on, two soldiers to treat in a similar way two other Armenian women on the road to Anerzi.

On the 14th (26th) June two Armenian political prisoners, who obtained from the Lieutenant of Gendarmerie, Saïd Effendi, three revolvers and three daggers, rushed out of gaol, wounding the guard and a zaptieh. They were arrested by gendarmes in a valley 10 minutes from Karahissar, beaten and wounded, and eventually, after cross-examination, to cover Saïd Effendi's complicity, they were thrown down from a height of 6 metres and killed. The zaptiehs then brought out of prison four other Armenians charged with ordinary offences, and ill-treated them to death, their cries having been heard by the public.

Several arrests of Armenians followed this incident, and great cruelties were practised upon them. A certain Mazmanian Gaspar would have been killed on the 14th (26th) June had not his Moslem fellow-prisoners rescued him from the hands of the zaptiehs.

Inclosure 5 in No. 203.

Mr. Hickman to Consul Longworth.

Eidjessy Mines, July 21, 1894.

Dear Mr. Longworth,

YOUR favour of the 11th instant duly to hand. I am enabled to furnish you with the real particulars of the case you refer to, as I was interested in the prison through the Karahissar authorities decoying away, on a false and unfounded charge, one of our cavasses three days before this happened. In spite of all my efforts, and offering a bail of £T. 100, and proving an *alibi* up to last, my cavass still languishes in prison, and is likely to remain there, he possessing a little money, lands, and houses, until he parts with all he possesses.

The following are the details of the butchery in cold blood of six Armenians on the night of Tuesday, the 26th June, 1894, about 7 P.M.

In the part of the prison whence the prisoners escaped, there were confined ten men, of whom six were Armenians and four were Turks. One of these Armenian prisoners gave a few piastres to one of the guards to remain out in the prison yard after time, this prisoner not being chained (the others being chained on arms and legs, these chains weighing about 15 okes each).

I should have premised by stating that a plot had been formed by these ten prisoners to escape from prison. Through the agency, I presume, of their friends, some Turkish officials had been bribed to supply them with four revolvers, 200 cartridges (revolver), two swords, and some files. It is my opinion that the murder of the six Armenians when recaught was perpetrated so that the name of this Turkish official should not be discovered. Dead men tell no tales.

By preconcerted plan, the nine chained prisoners, who had been busy for days before filing their chains during the time the other prisoner was outside in the yard, completed their work and freed themselves from their chains.

About 7 or 7:30 P.M. the unchained prisoner outside, who had obtained permission to remain for a while, said he was ready to re-enter his prison. It had been previously agreed between the ten prisoners that about one hour would suffice for the chained men to file through the remainder of their chains. When the iron door of the prison was opened to admit this latter prisoner, the other nine prisoners darted out and killed one zaptieh right off. This prison is under the Government House (Serai). The ten prisoners then darted upstairs to the large entrance and out of the main door, out of prison. These men succeeded in getting about a mile outside of prison. The six Armenians were caught in lower part of town and dragged back to prison, all alive, as witnessed by people in their houses on both sides of the street. The four Turkish prisoners, strange to relate, were not recaught, nor have they been recaught up to the present time.

On the prisoners being dragged to the prison-yard they were bayonetted to death.

As is the custom of Armenian funerals, when they were buried in Armenian grave-yard in Karahissar, their bodies were enveloped in white cloth.

During the funeral the people (about fifty Armenians with their priest), wished to view the bodies. They lifted up the white cloth from the bodies but saw no bullet wounds, only stabs.

They then left the graveyard, as their priest refused to bury the corpses on account of the people demanding an examination as to the cause of death by a doctor of good standing. An hour after all the people had left the burying ground, the Chief of Police arrived, who sent for the priest and told him to bury them or otherwise he would. The priest then buried them.

The Armenians wished to lay the case before a higher authority, but one by one they were put in prison, being accused of complicity in supplying the revolvers and swords, &c., to the prisoners. Others were then frightened and discreetly held their tongues. The four escaped Turks apparently were not sought for. Four brothers of some of those murdered Armenians were put in prison and there remain.

Mazman Gasbar was a prisoner in a different part of the prison when the prisoners escaped. The windows of his prison overlooked the courtyard (the scene of the butchery) where the retaken Armenians were bayonetted to death. The pitious cries of the men being butchered ("Is there no one to help us? they are killing us! no soul will help us!") attracted this man's sympathy.

This man Gasbar called out through the bars of his prison, "Why do you kill them? for God's sake don't kill them!"

The butchery completed, this man was then set upon by the zaptiehs and so beaten by sticks and blunt edges of swords, that he vomited blood from his lungs, and is now suffering from a kind of congestion of the lungs.

This man, Gasbar, being a valuable witness in the future, is now accused of supplying the revolvers, although he himself was a prisoner and in a different part of the prison. This man will probably be hanged shortly. He was spared sharing the fate of those in the courtyard by the interference and intercession of the other prisoners, Armenians and Turks in the same room.

The cries of the men being butchered were heard all over the town, as the Serai or prison lies very low. Women fainted on hearing the cries.

On or about the 12th June an Armenian woman (married) went to do her washing at the big fountain, ten minutes' walk from the town (Karahissar), accompanied by her young son aged about 10. A Turk, son of Government official (the father member of Jury of Criminal Court, Djeza Daijessi Azasi), outraged her. Her son ran for zaptiehs who caught the villain, but finding that he was the son of a Government official, let him go. The outraged woman bit the Turk's hand, and the marks of the teeth were found on the hand, but the authorities have so far not even tried to punish the man. The Armenian women, as a result of this, are now afraid to leave their houses.

I have heard, but cannot testify to its accuracy as in cases cited above, that at a place called Anerghi, 45 minutes outside of Karahissar, an outrage was committed on a woman by two soldiers. All the women, excepting the one outraged, the prettiest, succeeded in escaping from the clutches of these two soldiers. I hear no punishment whatever was inflicted on these soldiers.

I have now given you all the details of evidence which I have collected at some pains. I believe them to be strictly accurate. I dislike the Armenians extremely, in fact as much as I do the official Turks. So you may take this as thoroughly impartial. To my certain knowledge, Armenians of standing, have been quitting Karahissar quietly for some months past. I must confess I should not care to be an Armenian in Karahissar just now, "a fortiori" if I were rich.

Our new Mutessarif is, I believe, a just man, and according to his lights, an

enlightened one, but the other officials, Judges, &c., may God preserve from their clutches all men suspected of possessing money, be they Turks or Armenians, if a semblance of a case can be made out against them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. A. HICKMAN.

Although all the six Armenian prisoners bayonetted to death died the same day, one of them (he who killed the zaptiah in flying from prison), lived some hours after the others. The Mutessarif and other officials examined this man and tried to discover who had supplied them with the revolvers, &c. This man said he would tell them later and wanted to be left in peace. I hear that after this cross-examination, he was killed so that he should not disclose the name of Turkish official. One man (a Turkish official) is in prison, Said, being suspected of supplying the arms. He is a sergeant, I believe, or the second or third official of the prison in rank below the Tabour Agassi.

J. A. H.

Inclosure 6 in No. 203.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, August 25, 1894.

Sir,

IN connection with my despatch of the 26th ultimo on the subject of the murder of prisoners at Karahissar, I now beg to annex herewith extract of a letter from Dr. Jewett giving a version of the affair as heard by him from a reliable source at Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 7 in No. 203.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Sivas, August 9, 1894.

(Extract.)

YOUR letter of the 26th July was received on the 7th instant.

I have heard about the incident of the 26th June at Karahissar.

The accounts I have heard differ a little from each other, but not in any very important particulars, and none of them agree with your account, and from the reports I get, the affair does not seem to me to be so outrageous as your account makes it out to be.

The most complete account I get from a very reliable man, who recently came from Endérés. His account is as follows.

About two years ago a rich Karahissarli was returning from Jerusalem; between Kerassond and Karahissar he was robbed.

The Chief of the band of robbers was a young man from Armudere, near Divrik, and his accomplices were a native of Tamzara and two men of Karahissar, all Armenians. They were arrested and imprisoned.

Two men from Kharput (brothers), who had a shop at Karahissar, were suspected of having something to do with the robbery, because on that day their shop was closed, and they were also arrested.

After spending a year and a-half or two years in prison, these six Armenians bribed some gendarmes and obtained some guns and swords.

They planned to strike down the guard and escape at the regular time of going to the privy. They went out, and five of them returned, but one of them asked to stay without and speak to his lawyer. As the lawyer did not come after a long time, the guard told the man to come in. At that moment the five men who were inside rushed out, overpowered the guard (knocked him down with a big stone, some say, but did not kill him), and fled towards the old fort on the top of the rocks. The zaptiehs started in pursuit. The men had grown stiff in prison, and could not run fast. They began firing on the zaptiehs, who returned the fire. The first killed was one of the zaptiehs. Two other zaptiehs were wounded, and one prisoner was shot dead. The rest were captured and taken back to the prison.

(Perhaps during or after the fight they were thrown down from the high rocks as you relate.)

That evening, about 1·30 or 2 o'clock (Turkish), the zaptiehs brought these five men out into the prison yard, and surrounding them on all sides, bayonetted them until they fell, and then they finished them with their swords and knives. Armenian, Kizilbash, and Turkish women, looking on from the housetops, cried out with horror, and protested against the barbarity. One woman afterwards died from the effects of the shocking sight. Orders were sent to the Armenians to come and bury their dead, which they did reluctantly.

The mother of the Kharputlis had arrived only that day from Kharput to make a special effort to obtain the release of her two sons, who were generally regarded to be innocent of the robbery.

I have not spoken, as desired by you, to the Vali about this affair, but will do so when I have a good opportunity.

No. 204.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 401.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 3, 1894.

I AM informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Angora that he has heard from Sivas that in the early part of August several trials of Armenians took place. About twenty-five were condemned to the following punishments: one to death, one to life imprisonment, and the rest to periods varying from five to fifteen years. Five persons were acquitted.

Mr. Cumberbatch has also been informed that on the 16th instant the mail from Sivas to Samsoon was attacked by several men dressed as Georgians, who succeeded in carrying off over 1,000*l.* belonging to the Public Debt Administration and the Sultan's Privy Purse.

The Vali of Angora, Mr. Cumberbatch adds, is of opinion that the robbers were Armenians, assisted by Kizilbashi Kurds from a village near Tokat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 205.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 403.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 386 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Report addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum by Mr. G. P. Devey, late Vice-Consul at Van, on the state of the Hekkiari province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Graves.

Van, July 2, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to put together a few observations made during a short tour of personal inspection in the Hekkiari Sandjak for your perusal.

It is satisfactory to remark that the parts of the district I visited are fairly well administered, and that the functionaries of the Cazas appear to be more competent and better qualified men than was the case some few years ago.

Considerable trouble has arisen in this Sandjak, through a factious opposition, excited and fomented in several quarters, against the taking of a first census during the spring months; but the census is now progressing favourably and will soon be completed, though even whilst I was at Julumerik ten days ago a slight attempt at armed resistance had yet been made at Mairanos, a village of Livin Nahiyyeh, where a troop of gendarmes, upon being fired upon by Kurds, had abstained from retaliating.

Undeniably the inhabitants of almost all Hekkiari are extremely poor and would be ill-able to support any increased taxation, and hitherto it would seem that in many places where the tribal Kurds have never afforded conscripts, no military exemption tax has been levied from the Christians. It has been the general custom also for the Kurdish Bey or Agha or the Nestorian Melik to levy and pay all the money taxes of his village or district in a lump sum, and no doubt this system has given great opportunities for irregularities and exactions; hence it is that the Bey, apprehensive that he will find himself deprived of a source of influence and profit, has spread all kinds of false reports anent the census and its purposes, and as to the heavy exactions imposed by Government and mercilessness in collecting them, whilst he pretends to fear that it is proposed to introduce among them presently the conscription.

It is difficult to appreciate, if I may make a short digression applying to Kurdistan generally, how deeply rooted and how firmly rivetted are the relations between Chief, whether nomad or practically settled, and man; and though one hears but seldom of some instance of gross cruelty, injustice, or oppression which remains without redress, or even idea or desire of redress, the Beys, almost without exception, still keep up a severe discipline and exact prompt and implicit obedience. Less than half-a-century ago they had power of life and death over their men, and in many cases exerted it; the old order is changing and has nearly passed away, but the sentiments engendered under it, the faith and loyalty and perfect trust of the henchman in his protector, yet survive and will last long. Without throwing any imputation on the loyalty of the Kurd to his Sovereign, it must be remarked that he has little in common with the ruling race, and seldom any respect or esteem for local Governors; "Roumi Chia" (the Turks are blackguards) is an expression openly heard from them, and even the bond of religious union is weak, so that they are sometimes asked, half in jest, "Are you people here Kurds or Moslems?"

Doubts as to the continuance of the establishment of the Hamidiyyeh regiments appear to have spread from Van, where vague rumours to this effect have been whispered for some time past into the Hekkiari. At Bashkaleh there was a report that one regiment had already been abolished; and whilst a guest at a Shidan camp, whose tribe will contribute a regiment and a squadron, many questions were asked as to whether the scheme would be profitable or not. The undertaking is, however, still being carefully nursed here. Nineteen regiments have been or are being enrolled, and a late promise of a regiment or a squadron is yet coming in, or a promised company being enrolled.

Since last autumn there appears to have been a certain amount of disorder, or rather want of peace and tranquillity, for the Armenian inhabitants of a few villages near Bashkaleh, in Albak Caza, and it has been said that a considerable number of families actually quitted the country before the winter. This state of affairs originated last autumn in the final acceptance and admittance of a certain Mami, a Chief of the Shikak tribe beyond the Persian border. He was accompanied by about 180 families of his tribe, who were dispersed for quarters in the neighbourhood of Bashkaleh this last winter.

The Shikak tribe, it must be explained, was some twenty years ago a very considerable one, spread over the Cazas of Hamidiyyeh, Albak, and Gevar, and into Persia, and under the Chieftainship of a certain Ali Khan, of local notoriety for deeds of violence. A schism arose among the chief men, followed by a murder, which resulted in a secession of the greater part of the tribe (some 900 families), under Ali Khan and his sons beyond the Persian frontier. The remainder of the tribe, about 400 families, is to be found in Turkey, and its nucleus at Bashkaleh, recognized for its Agha, Sheref Bey, son of the murdered man, now about 25 years old.

Mami, or Mehmed, and a brother are the sons and successors of Ali Khan, and naturally the blood feud with Sheref Bey's section of the tribe still exists, though it seldom blazes out fiercely. This man has during the last few years made several forays or blackmailing visits into Turkey with impunity, but lately it would appear that the Persian authorities were endeavouring to capture him for crimes of murder and robbery committed in Persia. Such being the case, as on previous occasions, he again made overtures to the Van authorities professing to be the Chief of an important tribe, a man peaceably disposed but much maligned, and only anxious to return to the land of his fathers and former allegiance, with further assurances that all or most of his tribe would return with him, and that he would be proud to contribute two regiments of the Hamidiyyeh cavalry. One is being actually enrolled, and Mami has just received the rank and title of Pasha, together with a salary of 10*l.* per mensem from the Turkish Government, besides which it is proposed to offer him pasture land

and quarters for the tribe in Hamidiyyeh Caza. He had already been appointed to the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel for the Hamidiyyeh cavalry project. Whether the outcome of this affair will prove profitable or not is extremely doubtful. Possibly the zeal of the Persian authorities for Mami's capture will flag, and he will then certainly return with his followers to his adopted land, where he has relatives and valuable possessions. Or he may revert to his habitual courses of robbery and violence, and then when in trouble with the Turkish authorities try to place himself under Persian protection as a victim of Turkish oppression and persecution.

Not having made an extended tour in the Sandjak, I am unable to offer any new statistics as to the numbers of the Nestorians of Van. According to statistics found in this Consulate, there were about 63,000 a few years ago, and an independent authority has lately rated them as numbering upwards of 80,000; but the fact is that, while it is extremely difficult to get the true numbers, owing in great part to their wandering and nomad habits, it is unlikely that the Nestorians of Hekkiari really exceed the figure of 40,000 "Rayah" and "Ashiret" together. In support of this smaller figure several reasons may be assigned. The known tendency to exaggeration among the tribes with a view to heightening their importance and prestige; the nature of the country; the amount of grain and food crops raised; and their manner of living in scattered houses or hamlets of two or three.

The tribal part of this Christian people are in rather an anomalous position as regards the formation of Hamidiyyeh regiments, for I believe no countervailing propositions have been offered to them, and, by the way, no Yezid regiment has been enrolled as it was at first proposed.

The harvest in Hekkiari promises fairly well, though locusts were present in some quarters, but were being actively combatted. An attempt at agricultural terrorism obtained for a little while in some places, the plain of Gevar, for instance, during April last, as Kurds opposed to the census-taking forbade the "Rayahs" to plough and sow, but it was quickly put down.

A battalion of infantry is moving from Bitlis to keep order among the nomad tribes who migrate to the Hekkiari mountains, a very necessary measure, which ought to be resorted to every year. Some few notorious brigands or blackmailers, including a certain Gasso, mentioned formerly as a thorough ruffian, have been taken, but I witnessed the escape of one Telo, and a raid from Persia was made upon two Nestorian villages, Ili and Dera of Gevar, in which 900 sheep were carried off and a man killed, whilst I was at Diza.

Upon the whole, however, the district was not less quiet than at other seasons, but only a little excited about the introduction of the census.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 206.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 405.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 4, 1894.*

I TRANSMIT, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting that several battalions have left that place in the direction of Mush, and that measures are being taken to call out the Reserve and enrol recruits.

The reason assigned for these extensive military preparations is a revolt of Armenians at Talori, in the Sassoon district of the Bitlis Vilayet. I have questioned the Grand Vizier on the subject, and he stated that the Armenians had risen, and that considerable bloodshed had taken place.

I was unable, however, to learn any particulars of what had taken place.

On the 2nd instant, as I informed your Lordship by telegraph, Mr. Graves reported that three regiments of Kurdish irregular cavalry had been dispatched to the disturbed district, and that a Kurdish Chief, named Hussein Pasha, of very evil repute, had left Erzeroum with the supposed intention of taking command of them.

I considered this news to be of so serious a character that I at once sent a private letter, of which a copy is inclosed, to the Grand Vizier, pointing out the danger of employing irregular troops for the suppression of disturbances. Yesterday I called upon his Highness at the Porte, when he assured me that the Hamidié troops about

to be employed consisted of only three squadrons, and that they would be sent no further than Mush, where they would act as garrison in place of the regular troops, which were leaving that town for Talori.

He gave me to understand that the disturbances were confined to the latter place, and that there was no doubt that the revolted Armenians would promptly disperse as soon as the military force, which had been sent to restore order, made its appearance.

He added that the Mushir, Zeki Pasha, who commands the 4th Army Corps, has been ordered to go in person to Talori, and has been specially instructed to allow no excesses. The Grand Vizier took pains at the same time to impress upon me that the Hamidié regiments were not so undisciplined as I supposed, that they were under the command of Turkish officers of the regular army, and were being trained on the same system as the Cossack regiments in Russia.

In referring to the encounters which so frequently take place between the Kurds and Armenians the Grand Vizier asserted that the latter were often the aggressors; that in the mountainous districts there was little difference between the two races, and that in the settled parts of the country the Armenians had much the best of it, and that, owing to their superior wealth and intelligence, the Kurds were entirely in their hands.

I informed his Highness that the accounts I received from British Consular officers gave a widely different account, both of the Hamidié regiments and of the relations between the Armenians and Kurds.

I inclose an extract from a letter from Mr. Graves, forwarding a communication from Mr. Boyajian giving such information as had reached him respecting the state of things at Talori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, August 25, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that orders have been received here to call out the First Reserve ("Ikhtiyat") of the Eighth Division (4th Army Corps), the head-quarters of which are at Erzeroum. At the same time, it is said that measures are being taken to enrol the recruits of this year's levy before the usual time, and considerable activity is being shown in military circles. Two battalions of the 25th Regiment of infantry have left Erzeroum, it is supposed, for Mush, as well as a detachment of mountain artillery, and it is said that a battalion of rifles and two other infantry battalions are on their way from Erzingian to Erzeroum.

Reports reach me from various quarters of very serious disorders in the Sassoon district of the Bitlis Vilayet, arising out of the previously reported troubles at Talori, and it would seem as if the Sassoon region were in a condition of open rebellion. It is, however, difficult to believe that these disorders alone account for the extensive and costly military preparations which are in progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Sir P. Currie to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

Therapia, September 2, 1894.

My dear Grand Vizier,

I HAVE just received some very serious news from Erzeroum. If true, a state of things would arise which could not fail to have most lamentable results to the interests of the Empire.

I am told that three Kurdish regiments of irregular cavalry are being sent against the Armenians at Sassoon.

It is also stated that Hussein Pasha, of the Haidaranli tribe, whose misdeeds are well known, and who was brought to Erzeroum three months ago under a military escort, had left that city, and is to put himself at the head of the regiments in question.

I need hardly remind your Highness that it was the acts of irregular troops in Bulgaria which produced so painful an impression in Europe, and were the cause of so many misfortunes to Turkey. I earnestly beg you, my dear Grand Vizier, to do your utmost to prevent the repetition of similar occurrences.

If it is absolutely necessary to order troops to Sassoon, could not regular and disciplined troops be sent, and cannot they be placed under the command of an officer of known discretion, in whom His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has full confidence?

Above all things the Kurdish regiments should be prevented from approaching the disturbed districts.

Being unable to see your Highness to-day, I send you these few lines, so as not to lose time in calling your attention to a matter which seems to me to be one of exceptional gravity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 206.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Extract.)

Erzeroum, August 13, 1894.

I INCLOSE an extract from a letter from Boyajian. He is not yet sure enough of his facts to report officially, but it seems there is little doubt that affairs at Talori, and in Sassoon generally, have taken a very serious turn, and that the bungling of the Bitlis authorities, or perhaps their designed harsh treatment, has driven these wretched Armenians into open and armed revolt against the Government.

Here all sorts of rumours are current of heavy fighting in Sassoon, and also in the Mush district, but nothing is known for certain, except that troops are being sent to Mush, and that the First Reserve ("Ikhtiyat") men of all the Eighth Division, which has its head-quarters at Erzeroum, have been called out. It is hard to believe that the Government would take such a step merely on account of the revolt of a few hundred half-armed villagers in the Bitlis mountains, and it looks as if the Turks either had lost their heads or had reason to anticipate more important troubles.

However this may be, it would seem as if the Armenian agitators had succeeded in their design of bringing about, with the help of the Bitlis authorities, a local insurrection which will cost some bloodshed to put down, and so, perhaps, attract European attention to the Armenian question.

No. 207.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 407. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 4, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 258 of the 25th May and to previous correspondence respecting the case of Ohannes Papeyan, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have to-day heard from a trustworthy source that the Court of Cassation has decided that the letter addressed to this person by Professor Thoumayan was not of a treasonable character, and has consequently quashed the sentence pronounced against him by the Local Court.

My informant added that this news must for the present be regarded as confidential, as the decision of the Court of Cassation has not yet been made public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 208.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Foreign Office, September 10, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to inform you that a telegraphic report has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, to the effect that, in accordance with instructions from the Porte, all the Armenians, numbering about 170, who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the Yuzgat Court, have been released, and that orders have been given for the re-investigation of the cases of seventeen prisoners under sentence of death.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 209.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, September* 11, 1894.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 76 :

Said Pasha read to me to-day the Sultan's Iradé in regard to the Armenians. It is to the following effect :—

With the exception of those who have been sentenced to imprisonment for life, or condemned to death, all those Armenians at Yozgat and Angora who have been sentenced by court-martial to various terms of imprisonment will be pardoned.

In the former cases no new trial will take place, but the sentences will be mitigated in accordance with extenuating circumstances, which will be taken into consideration where they are found to exist.

I communicated to Said Pasha the satisfaction with which your Lordship had heard of the clemency shown by the Sultan to the Armenians.

No. 210.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, September* 12, 1894, 9·45 A.M.

YOZGAT prisoners.

I have the honour to state, with reference to my telegram No. 151, that Her Majesty's Consul at Angora writes that the prisoners condemned to death amount to eighteen, of whom one is a Turk and the rest Armenians.

With the exception of two, who undoubtedly murdered the informers, probably all will have their sentences commuted.

No. 211.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 280.) *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 405 of the 4th instant relative to the steps taken by the Turkish Government to repress the revolt in the Sassoon district of the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I approve the terms of the private note which you addressed to the Grand Vizier on the 2nd instant, urging the Porte not to employ irregular troops for this purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 212.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 288.) *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 400 of the 2nd instant, relative to the circumstances attending the death of certain Armenian prisoners at Karahissar, in the Vilayet of Sivas.

The execution, even according to the less unfavourable account given of it, seems to have been accompanied by great barbarity, but, in view of the conflicting reports received of the proceedings, I approve of your proposal not to take any action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 213.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, September* 18, 1894, 10 A.M.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Cumberbatch at Angora, stating that it is not yet known where the reinvestigation of the cases of the prisoners condemned to death will take place.

The members of the court-martial are now on their way from Yozgat to Angora. At Tokat disturbances are reported to have taken place.

No. 214.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Therapia, September* 20, 1894, 2·10 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs that orders have been given for the Kurdish irregulars to return to their homes from Mush, whence an outbreak of cholera among the troops is reported, and that the reserves have been disbanded.

There are no reports of any hostilities, and the belief is that the importance of the disturbance has been greatly exaggerated by the authorities at Bitlis, to which place Zeki Pasha has gone.

No. 215.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September* 22, 1894, 9·45 P.M.

CONSUL CUMBERBATCH telegraphs to me to-day, with reference to his despatch of the 17th instant, that counter-instructions have been received for the court-martial to leave next Monday for Tokat.

No. 216.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 24.)

(No. 58.) *Erzeroum, August* 30, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that some excitement has been aroused among the Armenian Catholics of Erzeroum, and of the large Catholic village of Khodoutchour in this vilayet, by the arrest of several inhabitants of Khodoutchour, and by a search

instituted by the police of the house of one Alexan Effendi, a prominent Armenian Catholic, who is a member of the Grand Council of Erzeroum.

A quarrel had arisen among the Catholics, between the partisans of Der Garabet, the Acting Bishop of Khodoutchour, and his opponents, among whom is Alexan Effendi, and a letter was intercepted by the police, addressed to the latter, by fifteen Khodoutchour Catholics, settled at Tiflis, containing abusive expressions against Der Garabet and the Ottoman Government. In consequence of this letter, the house of Alexan Effendi was searched about ten days ago, and a large number of books and papers confiscated, which are now being examined. A Commissary of Police and a "Juge d'Instruction" have also been dispatched to Khodoutchour to hold an inquiry there.

The Armenian Catholics have hitherto remained entirely aloof from seditious movements of all kinds, and well-informed persons do not attach much importance to the foolish vapourings of the Tiflis authors of the letter to Alexan Effendi. The general opinion appears to be that the matter has been pushed and magnified by Kiazim Bey, the chief Commissary of Police at Erzeroum, probably with a view to extortion at the outset; but it has now passed out of his control into the hands of the judicial authorities. I will keep your Excellency informed of the further development of the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 217.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 24.)

(No. 59.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September 1, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the rumoured revolt in the Sassoun district of Bitlis is fully confirmed, and that the military preparations for its repression are being actively pushed on.

I learn that the notorious Kurdish Chief, Hussein Pasha, of Patnotz, referred to in my despatches No. 9 of the 14th February, and No. 41 of the 8th June, who has been under surveillance here for the past three months, has been allowed to leave Erzeroum this week, and it is generally believed that he is to join the troops at Moush with a large force of Hamidiyé cavalry of the Haidaranli tribe, though the civil and military authorities maintain silence on that point.

I have no hesitation in saying that these barbarous auxiliaries are entirely inefficient, except for purposes of rapine and atrocity, and if it be true that they are to be employed for the repression of internal disorders, the most disastrous consequences may be confidently anticipated.

I have communicated the substance of the above to your Excellency by cypher telegram to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 218.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 24.)

(Extract.) *Erzeroum, September 1, 1894.*

I AM most anxious to find out if the Kurds of Sassoun are making common cause with the Armenians. They (the Kurds) have always been most unruly and have never paid taxes nor furnished recruits. They are about five times as numerous as the Armenians in the Sassoun Caza—say 15,000 Kurds to 3,000 Armenians, and the latter have been their vassals, so to speak, joining them in their feuds and quarrels with the local authorities under compulsion. It is hard to believe that this handful of Armenians should have taken up arms against the Turks, against the will of the Kurdish majority. In my despatch No. 44 of the 23rd November, 1893, I drew attention to the fact that Armenian agitators have been for some time working with a view to a combined movement between Armenian malcontents and the Kurds of Sassoun, as well as those of the Dersim district of Kharpout, whose hostility to the

Turks is notorious. Boyajian's information, and that of the missionaries, confirm this view, and it is said that they had managed to introduce a certain quantity of arms and ammunition from Russian Armenia during the last year or two. But we are still in doubt whether the Sassoun Kurds are in open league with the Armenian insurgents, and the Dersim does not seem to be affected by the present movement, which is confined, as far as I can make out, to the Cazas of Sassoun, Modki, and Koulp, where it should be easy to isolate it, though it may take some time to suppress it entirely, owing to the extremely mountainous character of the country.

No. 219.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 24.)

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Trebizond, September 3, 1894.*

WITH reference to the Armenian prisoners killed at Karahissar, I beg to annex herewith extracts of another letter from Dr. Jewett, giving therein the conversation he had with Khalil Bey on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

(Extract.) *Sivas, August 18, 1894.*

I SPOKE to the Vali about the affair of the 26th June at Karahissar. He said that the Russian Ambassador had asked the Grand Vizir about it, and the latter had asked for a report on the affair, which he had made. It is very evident that the Vali will not admit that any such atrocity as you heard about was committed.

He is too loyal to his Government to admit such a thing. He said such an occurrence was absolutely impossible.

He said the facts were that some six or eight Armenian prisoners who, dressed like Mahommedans, had committed a highway robbery for the benefit of the revolutionary cause, obtained from their Armenian friends and relatives fire-arms and escaped from prison. They were overtaken by the zaptiehs and the Mutessarif, who is "un bon chasseur," in a place about three-quarters of an hour from the city. There a bloody fight occurred, in which six Armenians were killed, and three Turks were killed and three wounded. His Excellency says that the fact that so many Turks were killed and wounded proves that it was a regular battle, and that the other story is false. I could not admit the face of his argument, but it seemed useless to argue the question with him, as he seemed determined to cover any outrage if it had occurred. He said, however, that he would get additional information, and that the Mektoubdjee was coming from Karahissar in a few days, and that from him he would get the exact truth of the matter. . . . .

It is said on pretty good authority that the recent activity in finishing up the cases of Armenian suspects is due to the fact that the Grand Vizir sent notice through the Minister of Justice, that no one would receive decorations or other favours for their zeal in imprisoning suspected revolutionists. . . . .

No. 220.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 24.)

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Angora, September 6, 1894.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday that, with seventeen exceptions, all the Armenians condemned by the Yuzgat court-martial have been pardoned, and, consequently, about 170 prisoners have been liberated.

The seventeen men not affected by this decision are under sentence of death, but I understand that their cases will be reinvestigated with a view to their being commuted, except in cases of assassination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 221.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 411.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 7, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 407 of the 4th instant, respecting the quashing of the sentence on Ohannes Papeyan, I am informed that the Court had first decided to uphold the Judgment of the Court below, but owing to the strong representations made by one of the Judges, to whom the hardship of the case had been represented by this Embassy, the Court altered its decision, and found that Thoumayan's letter did not afford sufficient grounds to warrant a condemnation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 222.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 423.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 18, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding three despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the increase of lawlessness among the Kurds of the Van Vilayet.

I propose to communicate a précis of the incidents mentioned by Mr. Hallward to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 5, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of three despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the increase of lawlessness among the Kurds of the Van Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, August 25, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that between the 11th and 19th instant, wheat of the total value of about 150*l.* was burnt in four Armenian villages in the Haigatzor Valley, in the District of Van, presumably by Kurds.

In one of the villages (Kiushk) an Armenian was beaten and arrested by the village zaptieh, but it is considered very improbable that he had anything to do with the firing of the wheat.

In another Armenian village in the same district the villagers give a certain quantity of wheat (value about 15*l.*) to the Headman of a neighbouring Kurdish village, the inhabitants of which are addicted to arson, in order that he may supply them with watchmen for their crops, whom they also have to feed.

It appears somewhat hard that these villagers, who pay their full quota of taxes to Government, should not be given adequate protection without having to pay extra for it, but no doubt they find it pays better to incur this extra expense rather than run the risk of having their crops burnt.

A few days ago, in another part of the Van District, at the village of Dereby, 150 waggon loads of wheat, worth about 250*l.*, were burnt by a "Hamidié" captain named Mahmoud.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, August 27, 1894.*

WITH reference to the penultimate paragraph of my despatch of the 31st ultimo, respecting an attack made by Kurds on the Armenian village of Pani, in the district of Arjish, I have the honour to report that in consequence of the rebuff sustained on that occasion, a large party of Kurds came to the village subsequently, and took twenty-five sheep and £T. 25, and a large quantity of wheat, from the inhabitants, besides insulting the village priest by plucking out some of his beard. They seem, however, to have succeeded in persuading the local authorities that they were in the right, as sixteen of the Armenians have been lodged in prison at Arjish.

It is observable that such affairs, however they begin, generally terminate unfortunately for the Armenians.

The state of the country on that side of the lake, and thence to Erzeroum, verges, by all accounts, on anarchy.

Emin Pasha, the Kurdish Hamidié Colonel of Arjish, has, I hear, bought the tithes of twenty-four villages at 24,000 piastres, which is, perhaps, a third of their real value; he frightened off all competitors.

A caravan which arrived yesterday from Constantinople, consisting of seven Armenians with a large quantity of merchandize, was attacked by Kurds near Patnotz.

The carters in charge of the caravan were Moslems, and the Armenians disguised themselves as Kurds, and by this means and by the kindness of the leader of the caravan, the latter escaped assassination by some Kurdish horsemen whom they met, as the leader, a Moslem, on being asked whether any of those with him were Armenians, solemnly swore that none of them were. The Kurds helped themselves to a considerable quantity of the goods, and then allowed them to pass.

It is difficult to obtain exact details of what takes place in those districts, but I hear on good authority that the Kurds now no longer think it necessary to come under cover of night to steal the produce of the villages, but come with carts in broad daylight and help themselves to whatever they want.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 222.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, August 28, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday a party of eight Armenians were returning from a visit to a Monastery near here, when they were attacked and robbed by eleven mounted Kurds at half-an-hour's distance from the town.

An Armenian named Mirzik was shot and badly wounded, but not killed, a few days ago by a Kurd named Yakoub, cousin of a well-known brigand named Shakir or Shako in the District of Norduz in this vilayet. He was returning from the Hekkiari where he had sold some native cloth, and was robbed by the said Yakoub of £T. 18.

Shakir is an interesting instance of the impunity enjoyed by Kurdish brigands in this part of the country.

In June 1886, he committed an atrocious murder, which was reported by Mr. Barnham in his despatch to the Embassy of the 1st October, 1886. For this he was never punished in any way.

In Mr. Devey's despatch of the 10th May, 1890 (to Erzeroum), he is reported as having been concerned in extensive raids on Armenian villages, and in his despatch of the 27th May, 1890, as having levied blackmail on an Armenian Monastery. On the 17th June, 1890, he surrendered to the Van authorities, but was released without punishment.

Mr. Devey was then instructed by Mr. Lloyd to find out on what grounds Shakir was released, and to suggest that full restitution should be made by him to the villagers he had robbed. To this Mr. Devey replied that, to judge from the Acting Vali's manner of receiving his suggestions, he did not suppose for a moment that they would bear any fruit, and that as for the reason of his release, it was "clearly on account of the local influence of his family, and because the Government was either not strong enough or else not willing enough to have justice executed."

He is again mentioned by Mr. Devey in his despatch of the 30th December, 1890, as being guilty of numerous acts of sheep-stealing, &c.

On the 30th September, 1891, Mr. Devey reports that Shakir's brother Ami murdered an Armenian named Mohsi Sahag, and that the two brothers were arrested (the former as an accomplice) and imprisoned at Van. Shakir was released after some months.

His father, Yakoub Aga, was concerned in the murder of two Armenians at the village of Zizans, reported by Mr. Devey in his despatch of the 26th October, 1892.

Mr. Devey's supposition with regard to the probable fruitlessness of his representations to the Government has unfortunately proved correct, as Shakir still continues his career of plunder and bloodshed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 223.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 426.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 354 of the 30th July, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a *note verbale* which I have received from the Sublime Porte in reply to one I had addressed to it on the condition of the Protestants in Turkey, copy of which was inclosed in the above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Note Verbale.

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 27 Juillet dernier relativement à l'exercice du culte et de l'enseignement Protestants dans l'Empire.

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine n'ignore pas que la liberté du culte est pleine et entière dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire et que, loin d'y apporter le moindre obstacle pas plus qu'à l'enseignement, le Gouvernement Impérial s'applique constamment à leur accorder toutes sortes de facilités. Aussi, regrette-t-il sincèrement de voir la mesure adoptée en 1892 être interprétée comme une entrave au libre exercice du culte et de l'enseignement.

Cette mesure ne consiste qu'à régulariser la situation des églises et écoles établies sans l'autorisation du Gouvernement Impérial en leur appliquant les règles qui sont observées de tous temps lors de la construction de pareils édifices. D'après ces règles, l'autorité de la localité où l'on désire établir une église transmet les pièces nécessaires au Ministre des Cultes qui les envoie, de son côté, à la Sublime Porte après l'accomplissement des formalités d'usage. Ces papiers sont alors examinés au Conseil d'État, et, au besoin, au Conseil des Ministres et soumis ensuite au Décret de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

C'est sur un Iradé Impérial accordant l'autorisation demandée que le Firman d'usage est délivré. Il est procédé de même pour toute demande d'ouverture d'établissements scolaires. Du reste, l'établissement de mosquées et écoles Musulmanes se trouve aussi subordonné à l'accomplissement de certaines formalités.

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine voudra bien convenir dans ses sentiments de justice que ces dispositions n'ont rien de vexatoire.

Quant aux difficultés dont se plaignent les Protestants d'Ordou et de Fatsa, le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Trébizonde, interpellé à ce sujet, fait observer en ce qui concerne les derniers que ce sont eux-mêmes qui y ont donné lieu en n'obtenant pas l'autorisation préalable nécessaire pour la transformation en chapelle ou en école du local qu'ils avaient choisi à cet effet.

Pour ce qui est d'Ordou, son Excellence Kadri Bey déclare que l'autorité a dû empêcher les Protestants de pratiquer le culte dans la maison de leur pasteur qui, par sa proximité à l'église Orthodoxe, pourrait envenimer la mésintelligence qui existe entre les deux communautés. Aussi le Vali a-t-il reçu l'ordre de trouver une autre maison pour servir de chapelle aux Protestants.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères aime à espérer qu'elle voudra bien, dans son appréciation impartiale, reconnaître qu'aucun empêchement n'est soulevé au libre exercice des devoirs religieux et de l'enseignement Protestant.

Sublime Porte, le 17, Septembre, 1894.

No. 224.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, September 30, 1894, 10 P.M.*

CONSUL GRAVES telegraphs that Zeki Pasha has passed through Erzeroum on his return to Erzinjan. Mr. Graves informs me that the disturbances were much exaggerated, and that the troops will be withdrawn from Mush.

Zeki Pasha, it appears, does not anticipate any further trouble in Bitlis.

No. 225.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 433.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 22, 1894.*

WITH reference to the despatches Nos. 79 and 93 from this Embassy of the 8th and 25th February, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting the return to Constantinople of the Yuzgat Commission of Inquiry, and the transfer of the Yuzgat court-martial to Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 19th December, 1893, and of the 9th February last, I have the honour to report that the members of the Commission of Inquiry that was sent to Yuzgat in connection with the disturbances that occurred in that place and in some of the neighbouring villages last December arrived here on the 14th instant, and proceeded to Constantinople the next day.

As the more serious conflicts which took place after their arrival complicated matters, and led to the proclamation of martial law in the Yuzgat district and to the establishment of a court-martial, they did not accomplish much beyond examining a few Armenians and receiving several Petitions, the substance of most of which I had the honour to communicate to Her Majesty's Embassy at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September* 17, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th February last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mustapha Pasha, the President, and the four other members of the court-martial that has been sitting at Yuzgat since February, arrived here on the 14th instant, and will remain indefinitely in this town.

The official explanation given for their departure from Yuzgat is that there is no longer any reason for their presence there, whilst their retention at Angora is in order to try the prisoners recently arrested at Tokat in connection with the attack on the Sivas-Samsoun mail, and, presumably, any similar cases that may present themselves in this or any neighbouring vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 226.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 435.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 24, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 420 of the 17th September, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, giving a list of the Armenian prisoners who were sentenced to death by the Yuzgat court-martial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September* 18, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the prisoners condemned to death by the Yuzgat court-martial and whose cases are under consideration at Constantinople are, as far as I have been able to learn:—

1. Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian, whose case was reported in my despatch of the 29th June.

2. Dr. Dikran Sunni, particulars about whom are known to your Excellency.

3 and 4. Emin Oglou Séropé and Tahaghian Markos, convicted of active participation in the Yuzgat disturbances of December.

5 and 6. Agopdjian Agha Papasian and Takirian Artin (Arto), lawyers, who principally owed their imprisonment to the fact that they were the authors of the numerous Petitions, addressed by the Armenians of Yuzgat to the Commission of Inquiry and the Government, complaining against certain officials.

7. Berberian Nazar, found guilty of having been an accomplice of the revolutionary agent, Zirar Caloust *alias* "Morouk," who was hanged at Yuzgat by order of the court-martial in April last, as related in my despatch of the 9th April.

8, 9, and 10. Mihran, Devlet, and an alleged accomplice of the latter, called Artin (Arto), charged with the murder of two informers under the circumstances reported in my despatch of the 2nd February.

11. A Mussulman called Tchollak Hussein, convicted of the murder of an Armenian named Pilaw Oglou Ovakim during the conflicts of the 2nd February.

12 to 18. The men captured with the aforesaid "Morouk," but whose names I have not been able to procure.

The instructions from Constantinople with reference to all these men are to the effect that they are to remain at Yuzgat pending further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 227.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 25, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 342 of the 15th July, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting a representation made by him to the Governor-General, calling his attention to the dilatoriness of the judicial authorities in proceeding with the cases of fifteen Armenian prisoners who have been removed to Yuzgat from Angora.

I have informed Mr. Cumberbatch of my approval of his action in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September* 18, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th July, reporting the conveyance to Yuzgat of fifteen Armenian prisoners from the Angora prison, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, having assured myself that the pardon recently granted to the court-martial prisoners did not affect those men, I seized the first opportunity which offered itself a few days ago, to call the Governor-General's attention to the dilatoriness of the judicial authorities in proceeding with these cases.

Memdouh Pasha admitted the justness of the remarks I ventured to make on the subject, and in my presence requested the Procureur-Général to make telegraphic inquiries as to the position of each case, and to instruct his subordinate not to delay any further in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 228.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 24, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 367 of the 10th August, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that the six Armenian prisoners concerned in the Denek-Maden affair have been conveyed to the fortress of Payass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 19, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th May, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Court of Cassation having confirmed the sentences of the Kir-Shéhir Court against the six Armenians of Denek-Maden therein referred to, these men have been conveyed to the fortress of Payass, near Alexandretta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 229.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 438.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 24, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 433 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting that the object of the retention of the members of the court-martial at Angora was the trial of Armenian prisoners from Tokat.

Since this despatch was written, Mr. Cumberbatch has informed me, by telegraph, that the court-martial has proceeded to Tokat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, September 19, 1894.*

IN my despatch of the 17th instant, I mentioned that the object of the retention of the court-martial at Angora was the trial of Armenian prisoners from Tokat.

I have since learnt that over forty arrests have been effected at Tokat in connection with the attack on the Sivas-Samsoun mail last month, and that there was every disposition on the part of Armenians to create disturbances which the timely arrival of troops, sent from Yuzgat, prevented.

Of the above-mentioned forty men, eight are said to have actually taken part in the attack which led to the murder and mutilation of one of the zaptiehs escorting the mail and the robbery of over 1,000*l.* belonging to the Sultan's Civil List and the Public Debt Administration, whilst the remainder are alleged to have been accomplices lying in wait to assist in case of necessity.

It is reported that two Armenians, who tried to escape when the house they were hiding in at Tokat was surrounded by soldiers, were killed.

I am further informed that, in addition to the Tokat prisoners, a numerous contingent is also expected here from Amassia to appear before the court-martial. The number is estimated at about 200, and the main charge against them is understood to be the posting up of seditious placards.

In order to assist me in following the proceedings against these men, I venture to request that I may be furnished with any information respecting them which Her Majesty's Embassy may receive from Her Majesty's Consulate at Trebizond or from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 230.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 303.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 2, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 423 of the 18th ultimo, forwarding reports from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the increase of lawlessness among the Kurds in that vilayet.

I approve your Excellency's proposal to communicate to the Grand Vizier a précis of the incidents mentioned by Mr. Hallward.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 231.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 4, 1894, 7·50 P.M.*

VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD telegraphs from Mush following account of recent disturbances:—

"The Bekiranli Kurds who come from Diarbekir to pass the summer on the Antogh Dagh where there are several large Armenian villages, made a raid on the Armenians, and carried off cattle and other plunder. The Armenians, in the hope of recovering their property, made an attack on the Kurds, and in the encounter two or three persons on either side lost their lives. The affair was greatly exaggerated by the Governor of Bitlis, who applied for a large number of troops in order to suppress the disturbance. About the middle of August seven battalions of troops and one Hamidieh Regiment arrived here. The Hamidieh Regiment, however, never got as far as the Antogh Mountains, and left after ten days.

"Colonel Ismail Bey, commanding the regular troops, attacked the Armenians and plundered their villages. Several Armenians were killed, and the troops, it is said, were guilty of horrible atrocities. I intend in two or three days to start for Bitlis, passing by the scene of the disturbances, in order to verify the reported atrocities.

"The Mushir came here from Erzinjan a month ago and spent a few days on the Antogh Dagh, and then returned, as he considered the affair to be at an end."

No. 232.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 5, 1894, 3·20 P.M.*

VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD telegraphs further from Moush that he hears that in Talori villages and churches were plundered and destroyed, and many men, women, and children killed by soldiers. There were four deaths from cholera at Moush on the 3rd, and the place is inclosed by a sanitary cordon with ten days' quarantine. Although the Vice-Consul was ready to perform quarantine, the Governor refuses escort to Armenian villages without order from Constantinople.

Shall I inform Porte of these reports, urging that they should, for their own justification, facilitate the Vice-Consul's visit, and press for escort?

No. 233.

Foreign Office to the Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1894.*

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 29th ultimo, referring to the trouble which may arise from the refusal of the Porte to sanction a

meeting of the Armenian National Assembly at Constantinople for the election of a Patriarch.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 234.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 306.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 436 of the 24th ultimo, forwarding one from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, in which he states that he had called the attention of the Governor-General to the delay in proceeding with the trial of fifteen Armenian prisoners who had been taken from Angora to Yuzgat.

I concur in your Excellency's approval of Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 235.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 8.)

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September 12, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that he had been informed that certain soldiers and zaptiehs had been killed by Armenians somewhere to the south of Moush, and that a considerable military force had been dispatched in pursuit of the perpetrators of the crime.

This report, no doubt, relates to some incident of the outbreak in Sassoon, reported in my despatch No. 59 and various preceding despatches and telegrams.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, August 31, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed from official sources that two zaptiehs and ten soldiers were killed eight or nine days ago by Armenians at a village called Maidin [?], south of Moush, and that some "Hamidié" troopers and six battalions of infantry have gone in pursuit of the perpetrators of the crime, who have taken refuge in the Sassoon Mountains.

Unofficial information, however, leads me to suppose that Kurds, and not Armenians, were the authors of the crime; it is said that the soldiers and zaptiehs tried to secure some cattle and sheep belonging to Kurds, in lieu of taxes, when they were attacked by the owners, with the result stated above.

It seems very improbable that any Armenians of the Moush district would be either bold enough or strong enough to make such slaughter of Government troops, as, by all accounts, they are for the most part miserably poor, and without either the will or the means to commit the deed attributed to them by the local authorities.

It is impossible for me to say at present what the truth of the case may be, but I will not fail to communicate to you any further reliable details of the occurrence that I may be able to furnish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 236.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 8.)

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September 12, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting a raid by Persian Kurds of the Jelali tribe on the district lying to the north-east of the Lake of Van.

This appears to be a confirmation of the rumour which had reached me of disturbances on the Turco-Persian frontier, furnishing one of the numerous explanations given here of the mobilization of reserves and other military preparations. Similar raids are of annual occurrence, and usually provoke reprisals from this side of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, August 31, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a few days ago a band of Jelali Kurds crossed the frontier from Persia into the district of Abaga, which lies to the north-east of the lake, and took upwards of 2,000 sheep from the Kurdish villages of Hujuj Khatun, Ishkiran, and Sarinj, killing one man and wounding another.

The authorities at Tehran have been informed of the fact through the Persian Consul here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 237.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 8.)

(No. 64.)
Sir, *Angora, September 22, 1894.*

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day to the effect that the court-martial, the transfer of which from Yuzgat to Angora I had reported in my despatch No. 59 of the 17th instant, had received instructions to proceed to Tokat, and would leave this on Monday next.

In consequence of this new arrangement the conveyance to Angora of the prisoners from Tokat and Amassia, which I reported in my despatch No. 63 of the 19th instant, has been countermanded, and those that were already on the way have been ordered to be taken back.

It is understood that the Vali of Sivas advanced reasons which have been considered sufficient enough to alter the original intention of the Government to have the trials held here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 238.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 446.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 2, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding two

despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting the ill-treatment of Armenians by Kurds in his district, and the attitude of the Government authorities.

I propose to communicate some of the particulars mentioned in these despatches to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 238.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 18, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van. In the first Mr. Hallward describes the condition of the Christian population in some of the cazas of Van situated near the Persian frontier, as affected by the excesses of the Kurds enrolled in the Hamidiyé regiments, and by the manifest failure of the authorities to afford efficient protection to life and property. In the second despatch he proceeds to draw certain conclusions as to the Government policy towards the Christians from the attitude and language of its Representatives in the Van Vilayet when dealing with their grievances.

Mr. Hallward's remarks on the sufferings of the Christians at Van at the hands of the Kurds may be applied with equal force, *mutatis mutandis*, to those other districts within this Consular jurisdiction where similar conditions prevail. Wherever a defenceless agricultural population is found within striking distance of tribal Kurds among whom the Hamidiyé organization has been introduced, the same results may now be noted. Besides the region in Van dealt with by Mr. Hallward, these conditions are to be met with in the very districts where the strength of the Armenian country population is still to be found; in the Moush Sandjak of Bitlis, the south-eastern cazas of the Erzeroum Sandjak, and the Sandjak of Bayazid, though in the last named war, famine, and misgovernment have largely eliminated the Armenian element.

In Kharpout nomad tribal Kurds and Hamidiyé regiments are wanting. In Diarbekir, where both are numerous, it is the Armenians who are a negligable quantity. The mountainous regions of Dersim, Sasson, and Southern Hekkiari again each have their own questions, with distinct causes and requiring distinct treatment.

But the darkest blot on Turkish administration, and the chief legitimate grievance of the Armenian people, are alike to be found in the condition of the districts above referred to—in the north-eastern corner of Kurdistan, having for their centre the point where the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis touch. And, as I had the honour to point out in the last paragraph of my despatch of the 14th February last, this fact of the disturbed region overlapping the three vilayets would render it much harder, as matters now stand, to deal with the problem involved, concerted action between the Governors being almost impossible to secure, even if the will to restore and maintain order were not wanting.

Whether it be true or not that the policy of the Central Government, as reflected by the attitude and language of its Representatives in Van or elsewhere, is "to stamp out or drive out the Christian element . . . , and replace it by Kurds," is almost immaterial, so long as local authorities are permitted to act as if it were so. As far as Van is concerned, Mr. Hallward's observations are on record. In Bitlis the attitude of the authorities is, if anything, more hostile to the Christians than in Van, while in the Erzeroum Vilayet, with less active hostility, they show either apathetic indifference, or a consciousness that they are powerless to mend matters at present.

The result is to be seen in the fact that Kurds and Christians throughout the area in question are alike persuaded that the latter have been abandoned to the tender mercies of the former, who are not slow to profit by their opportunities, and it is needless for me to point out the very obvious consequences to the Empire, both economical and political, which may be expected from the gradual ruin and extinction of an industrious and peaceful population in favour of a predatory and non-productive race of semi-savages, who not only will contribute nothing to the wealth or effective military strength of the country, but will as surely prove a source of weakness, embarrassment, and foreign complication in Turkey's time of need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 238.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, September* 10, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to submit to you a few notes which I collected on a short visit to the Mahmoudié, Albak, and Hamidié Cazas. The immediate object of my journey was to find out something of the doings of a certain Mehemet or Mami Pasha, whose name is probably familiar to you, and also to get some idea of the condition of those districts generally.

The centre of the Mahmoudié Caza is a small village named Khoshab, about 30 miles from here. A few months ago an Armenian named Hagop Der Bogossian, the Government cashier, was murdered there by three Kurds, Ali Bey, his son, and his servant. Ali Bey persuaded the latter to confess to having committed the crime, promising to save him from punishment. The servant was accordingly arrested, but escaped from prison at Khoshab some ten days before my arrival.

Bashkala, the capital of Albak Caza, is a place of some importance, containing upwards of 3,500 inhabitants, Moslems, Jews, and Armenians, the latter forming the smallest element. A battalion of regulars is stationed there, and a Colonel of regulars has been living there for the last year, nominally to superintend the organization of the Hamidié regiments, of which there are three in the district, but practically he has nothing whatever to do, or at any rate, does nothing.

The Hamidié troops, in fact, are under no control whatever, beyond that of their own native Chief, which does not appear to be exercised much in the interests of law and order. It is a curious sight to see Kurds walking about the streets of the town in their native costume, with rifles (mostly of Russian origin, bought in Persia) over their shoulders, and multitudinous cartridges bestowed about their persons. They have a habit of taking what they require out of the shops without payment, which is very detrimental to the commercial interests of Bashkala; such losses are generally sustained in silence, as complaints to Government are usually productive of results, and may be dangerous to the complainants if they reach the ears of the Kurds.

Mr. Devey stated in his report of the 2nd July last the circumstances under which the notorious Mami, whom I mentioned above, succeeded in coming over the border from Persia, and settling in this district. Through the influence of a certain Kurd named Sheikh Hamid, who was lately given the rank of Pasha for services rendered in the formation of a Hamidié regiment, and who occupies a village close to Bashkala, he was permitted by the Government to settle himself and about 100 of his followers last autumn in the village of Arrag, distant some 6 miles from Bashkala.

This village contains sixty Armenian and fifteen Kurdish houses, and was formerly one of the most flourishing in the district. Since last autumn to July last, Mami and his men have lived there at free quarters, entirely at the expense of the villagers and in their houses. For the last two months he has been under canvas at some distance from the village. When I arrived there and questioned the villagers as to their condition, they asked me whether I could do anything for them, as if not they would rather not say anything, for it would only bring further trouble on them; however, I managed to elicit a few facts from them.

Besides the regular contributions they have to pay for the feeding of these Kurds and their horses, Mami takes every opportunity of levying pecuniary fines on them, thus he lately fined a man £ T. 1 for not getting up to salute him with sufficient alacrity. Some of the villagers lately tried to take some corn to sell at Bashkala, but they were intercepted, beaten and fined, and had to take the corn back, as Mami said he would probably want it for the winter, and on this ground he has strictly forbidden them to dispose of any of their produce.

One of these men was a Kurd of the place, who complained bitterly that he was reduced to abject poverty, and did not know how he should live through the winter.

An unmarried daughter of the village priest was raped some time back by Mami's son, with the result that she is now said to be pregnant, and some of his men broke into the house of an Armenian and violated his wife. I fancy from what I heard elsewhere that there have been other offences of a similar nature, but the villagers were naturally reticent on this head. One of them estimated the cost to the village of this Kurdish occupation at £ T. 1,700, but, of course, I have no means of checking this estimate.

The simple fact is, that the persons and property of these unfortunate villagers are entirely at the mercy of a set of lawless savages; they dare not complain to Govern-

ment, and indeed any complaint would naturally be fruitless, as the occupation of the village has been carried out under the auspices of the Government itself, which has shown its favour towards Mami by conferring on him the title of Pasha in June last.

Some fifteen families went to Persia last year to try and earn something, but returned on hearing that their property had been confiscated by Government, who it appears have laid down the rule that the property of all families who go to Persia shall *ipso facto* become State property. A case of this kind came to my notice at Bashkala. An Armenian had a small debt against an Armenian family who had gone to Persia, leaving one of the sons in charge of some landed property; the creditor tried, with the consent of the debtors, to realize his debt out of the property, but was non-suited by the Court on the ground that the land had become State property. I was informed that a good many other families (some said as many as 200) had left the district for Persia, so that if this rule has been universally enforced, the loss to the Armenian community must be considerable.

Mami's exactions are not confined to Arrag, they extend to nine (or more) other Armenian villages in the neighbourhood, which suffer, some equally, some not so much. In some, men of his tribe have settled themselves, in others, he contents himself with levying contributions of wheat, &c.

I also visited a Nestorian village named Adess, one of a group of five, some 15 miles south-east of Bashkala, which ten years ago were comparatively rich and flourishing, but are now reduced to a state of abject poverty by the depredations of neighbouring Kurds, whose Chief is a certain Hafzullah Bey, a Colonel of Hamidié. This village, however, was slightly protected by the presence of three soldiers, who lend money at heavy interest to the villagers, and consequently have an interest in protecting them to a certain extent. The people here said they were not so badly off as the villages further east in the districts of Guever and Shamdinan, which, if that be so, must be in a truly miserable condition.

Going northwards from Bashkala I arrived at the village of Deir, where is an Armenian monastery with an interesting old church, which was plundered by Kurds at the time of the Russo-Turkish war, and is now falling into disrepair. The monk in charge declared that they had not the means to have it repaired; the foundation was formerly a rich one, but has suffered in the same way as all other property in that region; the village which was formerly entirely Armenian and belonged to the monastery, is now half occupied by Kurds.

About 8 miles north is the small village of Bablasan, half Moslem and half Armenian, in the Caza of Bashkala. Here I saw the corpse of an Armenian killed a week before, which lay putrefying in the church. It appeared that he was a poor old man, a miller, and was going that day to the neighbouring village of Bisinguird, when he was robbed by Kurds, who, to prevent their own identification, knocked his head in with a stone. The villagers informed the authorities of the fact, and asked that the body might be examined, to confirm their statement. The authorities, however, took no notice whatever, and the villagers were afraid to bury the body for fear of being accused of wishing to conceal the murder. The villagers, both Christian and Moslem, complained bitterly of the want of security and the indifference of the Government to their sufferings.

Thence I proceeded to the Caza of Hamidié, which is largely inhabited by tribal Kurds, who for the most part carry on a similar system of plunder to those of the Albak district. At Serai, the capital of the caza, a village of about sixty houses, largely Nestorian, they rob the shops which are kept by Armenians as their colleagues do at Bashkala.

The Government, I observe, take, or pretend to take, these Kurds much more seriously than they do themselves. They openly avow that they live by plunder. A favorite phrase with the Van officials is "assayish ber-kenal dir" (the tranquillity is perfect). One of these Kurdish Chiefs I met asked how many Armenians had been killed lately in the Bashkala district, and then repeated the above phrase with a grin on his face.

With regard to the Hamidié troops it is now more than two years since the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps presented the colours to the regiments of this province, which now, I believe, nominally amount to about twenty-five in number, but nothing whatever has yet been done to bring these men under discipline; on the contrary, the only visible effect of their enrolment has hitherto been to encourage them in their lawless habits, and the idea begins to gain ground here that the real object of the scheme is to terrorize the Christian population, rather than to organize an effective military corps. The officers who have been sent to supervise the formation of the

regiments, speak in high terms of the soldierly qualities of the Kurds. I heard one enthusiastic officer declare that a Kurd could be made into a good soldier in two months, and that he had far greater military aptitude than the average Turk; but I do not find any such warlike enthusiasm manifested by the Kurds themselves.

I asked one of Mami Pasha's men what they would do in case of war breaking out with Russia, and he said they would try to escape to Persia if possible, but if they were forced into the field they would make the best of their opportunities to plunder. They have readily enrolled themselves so far, as by doing so they put themselves under the protection of the Government, but they have a horror of military service, and should any attempt be made to enforce it on the Hamidié troops, these paper regiments would, I imagine, speedily dissolve in the air of their native mountains.

In conclusion, I beg to state that, though my visit to the aforesaid districts was a hurried one, I saw enough to convince me that the Kurds of that region and all along the Persian frontier enjoy almost absolute impunity, and that the Christians have no efficient protection for their persons or property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M HALLWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 238.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, September* 10, 1894.

YOU may have gathered from my immediately preceding despatch that the Government do not show much zeal in protecting the Christians in this province. It is, however, my painful duty to have to record that their attitude in this matter is not one of mere apathy, but that by their words and deeds they actively encourage the Kurds in their lawless conduct towards their Armenian and Nestorian neighbours.

I am informed that his Excellency Bahri Pasha, Governor-General of this province, on a tour which he lately made through the Hekkiari, showed particular attention and favour to some of the most notorious ruffians in the country. Thus, a certain Kaso, a well-known brigand in Guever, who was arrested for various crimes a short time before the Vali's visit, was released by his Excellency, and treated with every mark of distinction and favour. He also treated Mami Pasha and other Kurds at Bashkala with similar cordiality.

On the other hand, a Nestorian who went to Bashkala from the village of Adess, mentioned in my former despatch, to address a complaint to the Vali on the subject of the various grievances of the villagers, many of whom he said had been forced by poverty to go to Persia, was rudely told by his Excellency that if they were not contented with the state of things they could all go to Persia or anywhere they liked—this in the presence of a number of Kurdish and other Notables of the district. It is perhaps superfluous for me to point out what effect such an answer, coming from the highest Representative of the Government, would be likely to have on the Kurds and others present. Under the circumstances, it might almost be called a direct incitement to crime.

I must, however, in justice to his Excellency, remark that from what I have seen of Turkish officials I do not think any one holding the position of Vali would openly use such language unless he had very good reason to believe it would be approved in high quarters, and I have no doubt that his language pretty faithfully interpreted the present policy of the Government, which appears to be to stamp out or drive out the Christian element as far as possible in this province, and replace it by Kurds. The Hamidiyé troops are a useful instrument to this end and they are favoured and protected by the Vali and all his subordinates. If, however, what I hear be true, his Excellency is beginning to see that matters are being pushed too far by these irregulars, as it is said that he has written to the Commander-in-chief at Erzingian to the effect that they must be brought under some sort of discipline, or he will be unable to carry on the government of the province under present circumstances, but I cannot vouch for the truth of this report.

Bahri Pasha is not a very high type of ruler, his ideas of government being chiefly limited to repression and terrorism applied unfortunately in anything but an impartial spirit. He has an extremely violent temper, which is apt to reflect itself in the acts of his subordinates, and he delights in petty acts of tyranny, which only result in exasperating the population against the Government. At the same time, a change of

Governor without a complete change of policy on the part of the Central Government would effect no real improvement in the condition of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 239.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 448.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 426 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I referred the Porte's *note verbale* of the 17th September respecting the Protestants to Mr. Dwight, Head of the Bible-house in Stamboul, for his observations.

I inclose a copy of his reply, together with a copy of a further note which I have sent to the Porte.

Your Lordship will observe that the place proposed for the celebration of Protestant worship at Ordou, pending the building of a church, is not the same as that suggested in the letter of the Evangelical Alliance, of which a copy was sent to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 291 of the 24th ultimo, and which seems to have been based on imperfect information.

In Mr. Dwight's opinion it would be unwise to attempt to continue public worship in the building formerly used for the purpose.

I am furnishing my German, American, Dutch, and Swedish colleagues, with copies of my correspondence with the Porte, and am asking for their support to my representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 239.

Mr. Dwight to Sir Philip Currie.

Sir, *Constantinople, September 25, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's Confidential letter of the 19th instant, inclosing a copy of the *note verbale* from the Sublime Porte of the 17th September, 1894, in reply to your note of the 27th July, respecting the treatment of Protestants in Turkey.

Availing myself of your Excellency's permission, I would offer the following observations on the *note verbale* :—

1. It is satisfactory to notice the expression of this document concerning the wish of the Ottoman Government to avoid placing the least obstacle in the way of enjoyment of full liberty of worship and instruction, and, moreover, to facilitate in every way the enjoyment of this liberty.

2. The rules described by the note as applying to the construction of church and school edifices in the Ottoman Empire are those which in the past have been observed in the case of such constructions, and in the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, the subjection of the construction of church and school edifices to the will of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in every case is expressly reserved, being thus placed in a different category from the enjoyment of liberty of worship and instruction.

3. While it is clearly right that measures should be framed when they appear necessary to the Sovereign for regulating the status of the schools and the assemblies for work established in private houses under the liberal provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, it is to be regretted that an apparent stigma of illegality is cast in the note upon such institutions by applying to them, after ten, twenty, or thirty years of lawful existence, the qualification established without the authorization of the Imperial Government. So far, at least, as concerns any such institutions which have formed the subject of communications to Her Majesty's Embassy on the part of the

Evangelical Alliance, their establishment was entirely conformed to the laws in force up to the date of the Edict of January 1892, and was anterior to the issue of that Edict.

4. Respecting the practical method proposed in the note, by which Christians in Turkey shall hereafter enjoy liberty of worship and education, it is to be regretted that the new arrangements do not seem to promise good results.

In explaining the purpose of the Edict of January 1892, the note uses the following words :—

"This measure does not undertake to do more than regulate the situation of the churches and schools established without the authorization of the Imperial Government *by applying to them the rules which are observed from all time in case of the construction of like edifices.*"

It then explains that the rules referred to are those which require an Imperial Decree to be obtained before a church or school building can be erected.

The phrase underlined* in the above translation contains the essential cause of nearly all complaints respecting the suppression of long-established Protestant worship and schools. This phrase does not occur in the Edict of January 1893, nor is there anything in that Edict suggesting that the permit newly required to be obtained is to be an Imperial Firman, nor in most cases has any other permission than the permit of the Local Governor been issued under the Edict. This peculiarity has led to the supposition that the claim now officially put forth was a misapprehension of prejudiced officials only, and hitherto complaints of its effects have been commonly complaints as against subordinate officials.

The essential part of liberty of worship and education is its recognition of the conscience of the individual, therefore giving the people an indefeasible right to assemble for worship according to their rite, and to bring their children together for instruction which will not offend their conscience in religious matters. It is necessarily independent of any question of their ability in point of numbers or of financial means, to enjoy the further privilege of possessing permanent buildings devoted to these purposes.

But the measure proposed in this phrase of the *note verbale* relates to the building, leaving the people and their consciences in a place of merely incidental connection with the question. It is a measure avowedly new, and is in fact previously unheard of in Laws or official Proclamations or Decrees concerning worship and education in Turkey, and because it confuses two things so radically different as the right to worship or to teach the children, and the privilege of having buildings set apart for these purposes, it must, in its practical working, seriously limit the enjoyment of the freedom of worship and education by Protestants, and in fact by all Christians in Turkey.

The case may be made more clear by a slight enlargement at this point. It should be noted that in the case of meetings for worship, or in the case of the instruction of the children of a small or impoverished community there can be no question of the construction of church or school edifices, but simply the question of the enjoyment by the people of the precious privilege of holding worship or of teaching their children in such houses as they can hire or otherwise temporarily use for the purpose. A "Regulation of the situation" of the assemblies for worship or the schools now held in private houses, by applying to their case rules prepared for the case of the construction of church and school buildings, becomes in practice a prohibition, since the first condition of the issue of an Imperial Firman for a church or school building is that the building must be the property of the community, permanently and inalienably dedicated to church or school purposes. To small or poor bodies of Christians in Turkey nothing remains of liberty of worship and education when its enjoyment has been limited by this novel condition. Furthermore, worship and schools are among the common and daily requirements of a Christian community, while that which is to receive the personal attention of the Sovereign, must, in the nature of the case, be exceptional and extraordinary. Liberty of worship or education, whose enjoyment is conditional upon the issue of an Imperial Decree in each specific case, is for this reason often rendered nugatory by difficulties encountered by those who attempt to secure Firmans. These difficulties are too well known to require more than mere mention in passing of the fact that such applications from Protestant communities are now pending, which have been from three to ten years in the preliminary stages, despite the most diligent efforts to hasten the setting aside of unfounded objections, by

* Italic in print.

the successive presentation of which prejudiced individuals seek to prevent the applications from reaching the throne. The greatest alarm must therefore be felt by the Evangelical Alliance on learning that an official document of the Sublime Porte, notwithstanding renewed declarations of respect for liberty of worship and of education, enunciates a principle of action which is in practice incompatible with enjoyment by the people of the benefit of these declarations, and which is, in fact, undistinguishable from a return, pure and simple, to the usages of the period before the promulgation of the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856.

It is earnestly hoped that the Powers interested in the preservation of religious liberty in Turkey will take suitable action for the modification of a policy which seems to ignore the very essentials of that liberty.

5. The *note verbale* makes mention of the specific cases of the suppression of Protestant worship and schools at Ordou and Fatza. The case of Ordou is the subject of a special Memorandum herewith inclosed. In the case of Fatza, the note quotes the Governor-General of the province as authority for the statement that the Protestants of Fatza have caused their difficulties themselves "by not obtaining the previous authorization necessary for the transformation into chapel or school of the place which they had chosen for the purpose."

There has not been any thought of transformation of the house in question into school or church property until the Governor of Fatza prohibited its use in 1892 on the ground that, under the new Ediet, the community must so transform it. But even if this contention is based upon a true interpretation of the Ediet, the requirement to make such a transformation as a condition of the enjoyment of the right to worship cannot be claimed to have existed until the issue of the Ediet of January 1892. Hence the Protestants of Fatza cannot well be blamed for having failed to obey in 1878, when they commenced to hold their worship and school in the house in question, an order which was not issued till 1893. The suppression of the Protestant worship and schools at Fatza is simply a case of unwarranted suppression by the local Governor of worship and schools established in conformity with the laws in vogue at the time of their establishment, fourteen years before this arbitrary act occurred. Moreover, no such objection of neighbours to the building exists as was alleged in the case of the suppression of Protestant worship at Ordou.

The case is one of groundless withdrawal of the right of worship and education which every consideration of justice and law requires to be redressed without delay. It is a matter for regret that so complete a misrepresentation of facts should have been accepted as a basis of action in this case by the Governor-General of Trebizond and the Sublime Porte.

In submitting these views on a most important subject, I beg leave to thank your Excellency for the courtesy by which I am permitted to do so, and I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. DWIGHT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Embassy has had the honour to receive the note from the Sublime Porte of the 17th September, relative to the exercise of religious worship and of instruction by the Protestants in the Ottoman Empire. Her Majesty's Embassy is happy to recognize the terms in which the right of full and entire liberty of worship is affirmed in this note, and takes no exception to the rule requiring the issue of an Imperial Iradé before the construction of new churches or schools can be authorized. But full and entire liberty of worship cannot be said to exist if it is made dependent on the erection of a building destined exclusively for use as a church, and the retrospective application of the rule in cases where small Protestant communities had been in the habit for many years of assembling for worship and of bringing their children together for instruction, has been the cause of serious hardship. As was stated in the *note verbale* from the Embassy of the 27th July, the result has been that congregations have been entirely deprived of the privilege of meeting for worship, and the children have remained untaught. There are many small and poor communities which are quite unable to acquire sites or erect churches or schools, but which have as good a right to pray and teach according to their own forms as larger and richer congregations. But if the Rules laid down for regulating the position of churches and schools

are applied to them, the practical effect will be the same as if liberty of worship and teaching were altogether denied them.

What Her Majesty's Embassy asks is, that these small communities shall be allowed to continue to worship and to teach in the places which they have hitherto used for the purpose. The Protestant faith allows the celebration of worship in private houses where no church is available, and Her Majesty's Embassy cannot believe that the Ottoman Government can wish to apply one law to the rich and another to the poor. It therefore appeals with confidence to the Sublime Porte to give instructions to its authorities to sanction the meetings for worship or teaching of Protestant congregations in places where no churches or schools exist.

Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to inclose separate Memoranda on the cases of Ordou and Fatza.

Therapia, October 3, 1894.

Inclosure 3 in No. 239.

Memorandum on the present state of the Ordou Protestant Worship Case.

THE Greek Protestants of Ordou, seeing that any attempt to persist in meeting for worship in their parsonage would, rightly or wrongly, cause new difficulties, have decided to abandon what they deem their right to so use the building and to build a church. To this end they have selected two different sites, and have requested the local authorities so far to depart from the usual practice in the matter of applications for such Firmans, as to state before the purchase of the land, instead of insisting on the purchase being made before consideration of the question, whether the sites are held to be open to objection. After this question is settled and the land approved has been bought, they hope that the Imperial Government, in its solicitude in behalf of their enjoyment of religious privileges, will issue the Firman authorizing the construction of the church immediately on receipt of the application, with the necessary certificates from the local authorities. In the meantime, until the church is built, this congregation will forego the privilege of meeting for worship altogether. This is because they cannot find a house in Ordou large enough to accommodate a gathering of 400 persons. They will hold regular meetings, however, in the chapel of the Armenian Protestants at Ordou, where half of their number can assemble at a time. For these meetings no special authorization will be required, since the building already possesses a permit as a place of worship.

Since the Protestants have shown respect to the wishes of the Greeks in abandoning their claim to worship at their parsonage, they consider that the Greeks should, on their part, refrain from opposition to the holding of the Protestant schools in that building, which is in every way adapted to the purpose, and which offers no possible ground of objection on the part of others.

It is greatly to be desired that the formal permit be speedily issued for the holding of the schools in this building. Until this permit is issued the schools must perforce remain closed, since the community has not the means to provide a school-house as well as a church.

Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to urge a prompt settlement of this vexed question on the general lines here suggested.

Constantinople, September 24, 1894.

Inclosure 4 in No. 239.

Memorandum respecting the Protestants in Fatza.

THE town of Fatza, in the Sandjak of Janik, contains 150 Protestants, who, from 1878 to 1892, enjoyed complete religious liberty, and were allowed to meet for worship and to conduct their school in a private house. In 1892 the Kaïmakam of Fatza suddenly declared that their religious services were illegal on the ground that they had no special Imperial Firman. The Sublime Porte now states that the Protestants of Fatza caused their difficulties themselves by not obtaining the previous authorization necessary for transforming into a chapel or church the place which they had chosen for purposes of worship. But it was hardly just to suppress Protestant

worship in 1892 on the ground that the Protestants had not obtained a previous authorization, seeing that this authorization was only made necessary by the Edict published in 1892. Moreover, it is not alleged that the neighbours objected at Fatza, as they did at Ordou, to the performance of Protestant worship. There were no sufficient grounds for the arbitrary withdrawal of the right of worship and education, and every consideration of justice requires that it should be restored without delay.

Therapia, September 28, 1894.

No. 240.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 450.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 3, 1894.

I MENTIONED yesterday to the Grand Vizier the reports of Mr. Hallward, of which copies were sent in my despatch No. 446 of the 2nd instant, as to the Hamidieh regiments, and pointed out to His Highness the serious responsibility which the Turkish Government incurred by enrolling the Kurdish tribes in the Imperial army without taking any effectual measures to control them.

The Grand Vizier said that Turkish officers had been appointed to command these regiments, and that it was hoped that they would gradually be converted into regular troops, and would form a valuable addition to the Turkish army. The present Nizam were originally raised in a similar manner.

He added that the Russian Government had complained of the creation of these regiments.

I learn from other sources that the number of Russian troops on the frontier has been increased as a precaution against any disturbances that may be caused by them, and that attempts are being made to influence the Kurds in the interest of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 241.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 167 of the 5th instant regarding reports of outrages committed by Turkish troops in the Bitlis Vilayet.

You should inform the Turkish Government of these reports, and advise them, for their own justification, to facilitate Mr. Hallward's proposed visit to the scene of the alleged atrocities; but you need not press for an escort if they make difficulties.

No. 242.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 168.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 9, 1894, 9·50 P.M.

AS instructed in your Lordship's telegram No. 80, I mentioned the reports I had received from Vice-Consul Hallward to the Grand Vizier. His Highness maintains that Hallward's sources of information, including the Mutessarif of Moush, who is actuated by a personal feeling of hostility to the Vali of Bitlis, are unreliable, and refuses to admit the truth of the reports. The Grand Vizier says that Hallward's presence at this moment in the disturbed districts would raise expectations of English intervention, and encourage renewal of the insurrection which has now been suppressed, and he urged, therefore, that the Vice-Consul's journey should be postponed for some weeks. Facilities for it would be given as soon as the sanitary cordon was removed, say, in two months' time.

I told his Highness that I must refer the matter to your Lordship before giving him an answer.

No. 242*.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 307.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1894.

I INCLOSE an extract from a Report of the Governor-General of Van, communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador on the 4th instant, on the subject of Mr. Devey's recent visit to the Hekkiari district. That officer is represented as having extracted malicious statements in writing from the Armenians with respect to the Hamidié regiments, and as having disseminated among the Nestorians ideas unfavourable to the Turkish Government.

I request your Excellency to inform the Porte that the Governor-General of Van is entirely mistaken in regard to Mr. Devey's proceedings; that his journey was undertaken in pursuance of instructions given at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is interested in the condition of the Nestorian Christians; and that the result of his inquiries was embodied in a Report submitted to Her Majesty's Government at the beginning of September, which, in its general purport, was not unfavourable to the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

Inclosure in No. 242*.

Extract from Report of Governor-General of Van, dated August 28, 1894.

LE Vice-Consul d'Angleterre a dernièrement visité les régions habitées par les Arméniens, et notamment les villages Hamidié, Albak, et Mahmoudié, dans le Hakari. Il a interrogé les habitants et leur a fait donner par écrit des attestations malveillantes contre les officiers des régiments Hamidié récemment organisés, et il leur a promis sa protection.

Le même Vice-Consul a également visité les Nestoriens, et on a lieu de croire qu'il leur a également inspiré des idées défavorables au Gouvernement.

Comme il se trouvait dans une maison Nestorienne à Mahmoudié, le Vice-Consul, après avoir renvoyé son Drogman et sa garde, est sorti au dehors; mais les chiens de garde n'étant accoutumés ni à lui ni à son costume, l'ont mordu aux jambes.

Le Vice-Consul a alors abandonné sa tournée, et est rentré à Van pour se faire soigner, en se réservant de visiter plus tard les autres villages.

No. 243.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 10, 1894, 11 A.M.

VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD telegraphed yesterday from Moush asking me to obtain orders to the Valis of Bitlis and Van to allow his party to pass without undergoing quarantine, subjecting them instead to a medical inspection before they entered the towns. Ten days' quarantine would, he said, bring his journey into winter. He reports ten deaths on the 7th and seven on the 8th, but says that there is no cholera in the villages although they communicate with the town.

No. 244.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 460.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 6, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, inclosing a letter from Dr. Jewett, of Sivas, giving an account of the late disturbances at Tokat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, September* 29, 1894.

DR. JEWETT, in his letter, copy of which is herewith inclosed, draws attention to the cruelties practised on Armenians consequent on the recent robbery of the mail bags near Tokat by eight men dressed as Georgians.

In connection with the above incident, I am informed that Dikran Chamgherdanian, son-in-law of Mr. Ghudukian, a rich Armenian merchant at Samsoun, was, on the 27th instant, arrested, and though a thousand pounds bail was offered for him he was conveyed to Sivas, simply because, it is alleged, he happens to be the brother-in-law of the owner of the vineyard in which the body of the courier was found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Dear Mr. Longworth, *Sivas, September* 16, 1894.

PERMIT me, at the risk of repeating some things that I have already written you, to give a more complete account of the recent robbery of the post near Tokat, and the disturbance which followed.

The post left Tokat Thursday evening, the 16th August. It carried the unusually large sum of about 150,000 piastres of public money, in addition to about the same amount of private cash.

Near the Turkish village of Varou, about one and a-half hours from Tokat, the post was attacked by eight brigands dressed as Georgians. It had started from Tokat guarded by two Circassian zaptiehs, ex-brigands. One of them had complained that he was not well before starting, and he was told that he could go a little way and return. He had already turned back to Tokat when the brigands appeared. The other zaptieh fled. The robbers shot the horses and the Tatar. The latter was mutilated in every conceivable way, and his corpse showed more than seventy wounds.

The robbers took all, or nearly all, of the public money, but left the private funds, which were more or less concealed by the letters.

About as soon as the robbery was reported, the Alaij Bey started for Tokat with a force of zaptiehs, and, in company with the local force, proceeded to arrest Armenians against whom there was [not ?] the least ground for suspicion.

Among the first arrested was an Armenian outlaw. He was badly wounded with daggers and bayonets, and is reported to have died subsequently under torture. Other Armenians were tortured in various ways, with the hope of getting information out of them.

The regular prison was soon filled, and then a large Khan was utilized as a prison.

The police are said to have been unusually cruel and outrageous in making their search and in arresting Armenians, and the state of affairs gave opportunity to the more lawless class of Turks to maltreat the Christians.

The state of disorder culminated in quite a serious disturbance on the evening of Saturday, the 1st September. A chaoush started for a certain Armenian quarter of the city to arrest an Armenian refugee known or suspected to be there. On the way he was joined by police, zaptiehs, and soldiers, and by a large number of Turkish roughs armed with guns, pistols, axes, knives, and clubs. The refugee was found in a house. He refused to surrender; he was shot, or, as some say, he shot himself. He fell, and as the men rushed in to capture him, he pulled a revolver and shot the chaoush, and, I think, one or two zaptiehs.

Then followed a scene of wild disturbance. The crowd had increased to several hundreds, and was greatly excited. It was composed of the most disorderly portion of the population. They attacked and beat the Armenians, broke into their houses, outraged the women, plundered and terrorized the people. The Mudei-oumoumi is said to have been instrumental in quelling the disturbance. The Armenians did not fight, they fled.

Following this affair, a few Turks and numerous Armenians were arrested. I am told that four Armenians have been killed and about twenty wounded, and that one Turk, the chaoush, was killed, and two wounded.

The Christians of Tokat have been subjected to every sort of cruelty, indignity, and outrage. The treatment of the prisoners is described as being exceedingly cruel. The state of terror has caused numerous casualties and several deaths among the Armenian women. The state of affairs has given the unprincipled officials a grand chance for extorting money from the Armenians, and they seem to have improved the opportunity.

If you wish, I can give you a statement made out by the highest Armenian authority of Tokat, setting forth the wrongs and hardships which the people are suffering. Their present condition is bad, and their outlook is a dark one.

The Vali, "Procureur-Général," Akif Bey, and Catholic Bishop are at Tokat, and I am told the Armenian Archbishop started for there to-day.

Some well-informed people suspect that the post was robbed at the instigation of Turkish officials. The reasons for the suspicion are as follows:—

1. The great activity shown in trying to show that the Armenians did it.

2. The post was detained at Tokat all day, contrary to the usual custom and without apparent reason.

3. It contained an unusual amount of money, and was sent with an unusually light guard. One of the two zaptiehs who were to go with the post complained that he was sick before he started, and he was told that he need not go but a little way. A medical examination is said to have shown that he was not sick.

4. An Armenian merchant, whose drafts are considered as good as gold, wanted to exchange a draft for some of the money going by the post, and he was refused.

It is rumoured that a large number of Tokat Armenians, some 200 or 300, have recently signified their wish to become Mahommedans in order to escape persecution, but I do not give much credit to the rumour.

Dr. Jerimia, of Amassia, one of the Board of Directors of the Marsovan College, was taken from prison on the 13th, put in chains, and sent with several Marsovan revolutionists to Yuzgat. He attended professionally a wounded "Kachak," and the Government claim that therefore he must be connected with the revolutionists, at least has information in regard to them. He claims that he simply answered a call to look after a man needing his care, without knowing what manner of man he was.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. A. JEWETT.

No. 245.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 10, 1894, 11·30 A.M.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 169, I have to inform your Lordship that there would not, in my opinion, be any chance of obtaining for Mr. Hallward exemption from quarantine. I propose, therefore, if your Lordship does not disapprove, to instruct him to return to Van at once.

No. 246.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 168 of the 9th instant.

I have to request you to inform the Grand Vizier that I regret that objection is made to Vice-Consul Hallward's proposed visit to the disturbed districts of the Vilayet of Bitlis, but that I will not, at the present moment, press the matter further.

You should communicate the statement made to you by the Grand Vizier to Vice-Consul Hallward, and instruct him to put off his visit.

No. 247.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 13, 1894, 7·30 P.M.

IN accordance with your Lordship's telegram No. 81, I to-day informed the Grand Vizier that Vice-Consul Hallward would be instructed to postpone his visit to the Talori district. I warned his Highness that in consequence of the abandonment of this journey Her Majesty's Government would not be in a position to correct even the most exaggerated versions of what had happened that might reach England. The Grand Vizier said that he had communicated to Rustom Pasha the Report of the Mushir commanding the troops, and while admitting that the women and children had fled from the district during the actual fighting, he denied that any massacre had taken place. The flocks and herds, it was true, remained in the hands of the authorities, but any of the owners who returned to claim them were to receive back their property. The authorities would sell those not claimed and distribute the proceeds as relief.

No. 248.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 174. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 13, 1894, 7·45 P.M.

DISTURBANCES in the Bitlis Vilayet. I am informed, on good authority, that before leaving for the Crimea the Russian Ambassador made representations at the Palace on the subject. M. de Nélidoff, I am told, stated that such proceedings might lead to a demand for an inquiry, and that matters had been allowed to go too far.

No. 249.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 312.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1894.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 446 of the 2nd instant forwarding reports from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Erzeroum and Van of the treatment of the Armenians by the Kurds and the indifference displayed by the Government authorities.

I approve your Excellency's proposal to communicate to the Grand Vizier some of the particulars contained in these despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 250.

Sir P Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 461.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 7, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 435 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, giving further particulars respecting the Armenian prisoners at Yuzgat who are under sentence of death.

I propose to communicate a translation of the inclosure, omitting the last three paragraphs, to the Grand Vizier, stating that I do not vouch for the correctness of the statements, but that it shows what is alleged on behalf of some of the prisoners by their friends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 250.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Angora, October* 1, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to send your Excellency a Memorandum containing further particulars concerning the seventeen Yuzgat Armenians awaiting the decision of the Government regarding the sentences of death passed on them by the court-martial.

These details have been compiled from communications I have just received, and, though coming from a source I have hitherto found reliable, it is natural to suppose that they contain everything that could possibly be recorded in favour of these men, but, on the other hand, it has been already shown how, in the proceedings of the court-martial, conviction followed accusation as a matter of course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 250.

Memorandum respecting the condemned Armenians of Yuzgat.

1. HAMPARTZOUM EFFENDI PAPASIAN. There is little to add to the details of this case as given in my despatch of the 29th June. It is affirmed that when Hampartzoum Papasian made the tour in the Yuzgat district last year, during

which, it is alleged, he counselled the Armenian villagers to give shelter and assistance to the revolutionary agent, Morouk, he was accompanied by two Turkish acquaintances and a Turkish servant, who, it is to be inferred, were ready to deny the allegations contained in the depositions of the villagers, which, it is maintained, were extracted by threats. It is also added that he was not submitted to any interrogation on these charges, but was merely asked to explain his journeys to Angora and Constantinople last winter, and was questioned as to certain correspondence of his.

2. Dr. Dikran Effendi Sunni. The evidence against him was to the effect that he had fired the shot which killed a Turk, Eyoub Oglou, but it is pointed out that, according to the testimony of the same witnesses, four persons had been seen firing from the same house, and that consequently it must have been most difficult, if not impossible, to state who actually fired the fatal shot, even supposing the doctor to have been one of the number, which, it is asserted, he was not.

Why the crime was attached to him is explained as follows: Last year burglars (Turks) broke into the house of Bedros Effendi Agopdjian, the doctor's father-in-law, and were duly identified, tried, and sentenced to imprisonment.

At the time of the December troubles these men were still in prison, and when the young Turk was killed an uncle of one of them declared that it was the doctor who had shot him, and he got some friends to support his testimony to that effect before the court-martial.

Dr. Dikran, on the other hand, had two witnesses, one of whom is a Turkish servant of the family, to prove that he was at his father-in-law's house all the time that the street disturbances lasted, but their evidence was not allowed.

3. Emin Oglou Scropé, a Government employé. He was convicted of the murder of a zaptieh, called Nedjib, on the 12th December. His friends deny his guilt, and allege that the witnesses brought up against him were of the lowest class of Turks, and that their evidence besides being false was also conflicting.

4. Tabaghian Markos. He was badly wounded by Turks in the conflict of the 12th December. He petitioned the Commission of Inquiry against his assailants, whom he named, but instead of getting satisfaction a counter-accusation was lodged against him, making him responsible for the wounding of the son of Sofou Hodja. The witnesses against him were the very same men he had named in his petition.

5. Agopdjian Effendi Papasian, a relative of Hampartzoum Effendi Papasian. The witnesses brought against him were Turks of the lowest order. Their first depositions were to the effect that they had seen him during the scenes of the 12th December, armed and inciting the Armenians, but, at a later stage of the proceedings, the same men were got to alter their statements, and to depose to having seen him encourage the men who had rung the church bell on that day. This change of evidence was apparently due to the fact that the General in command of the Redifs was able to refute their first allegations.

6. Takirian Artin. There appears no special charge against him, but as he was the author of several petitions setting forth the complaints of the Armenians, he was considered an instigator of the Church demonstration, and, subsequently, his fearless demeanour before the court-martial appears to have stirred up the wrath of the President, who is said to have addressed the prisoner in words to this effect: "Let me punish you a little, and then we shall see whether Justice, whose defender you are, will save you."

(Whether it refers to this case or to another one I have not yet been able to find out, but when staying here, Mustapha Pasha himself admitted before a circle of Turkish officials that he had on one occasion ordered one of the prisoners to be put into chains because he had dared to claim American protection, and a few days afterwards, on his reappearing before the Court and persisting in his claim, he, Mustapha Pasha, had lost his temper, and had given him a thrashing with his own hands.)

7. Berberian Nazaret. He was charged with having killed the son of Sofou Hodja, who was being carried away wounded on the 12th December. He maintained before the Court that he did not know the use of fire-arms, and was able to prove an *alibi*.

8, 9, and 10. Mihran, Devlet, and Artin. These men are the only ones admitted by Armenians as guilty of murder, and that under orders from the revolutionary agent, Morouk, to whose band they belonged.

11. Tchollak Hussein, the Mussulman assassin, is now reported as at large, but I am disinclined to believe it.

12–18. The names of the other companions of Morouk, besides those given above under Nos. 8, 9, and 10, have not been furnished to me yet. They appear to have

admitted having accompanied him on a part of his travels, but they deny participation in any acts of murder.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

British Consulate, Angora,
October 1, 1894.

NOTE.—The numbers given above correspond with those figuring in despatch of the 18th September.

H. A. C.

No. 251.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 313.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1894.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 450 of the 3rd, reporting that you had called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the responsibility incurred by the Turkish Government in converting the Kurdish tribes into regiments without the adoption of effectual measures for controlling them.

I approve the representation made by your Excellency on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 252.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 315.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 460 of the 6th instant, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond and a letter received by Mr. Longworth from Dr. Jewett, of Sivas, relative to recent disturbances at Tokat.

It would be desirable, if you have not already done so, that you should call the attention of the Turkish Government to Dr. Jewett's account of the cruelties practised on Armenians in the Tokat district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 253.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 20, 1894, 10·30 A.M.

VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD'S journey. My telegram No. 173.

Mr. Hallward is at present undergoing quarantine near Mush. When this is done he will go on to Bitlis, arriving there about the 25th. He will return to Van from Bitlis.

No. 254.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 22.)

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Kharput, September* 22, 1894.

I HAVE not been able to ascertain the real object of concentrating such a large number of troops in Moush; it may have a double object in view, that is, the excesses of Hamidiye's and the question of Talori. The latest information I obtained with regard to the last-mentioned subject is that a battalion was sent from Sert some time ago to Talori, and another battalion was expected from Mosul. The Armenians in considerable numbers were still shut up in a mountain gorge, which is described as being almost inaccessible.

It appears that the regulars have no permission yet to attack them, but I am told that a desultory guerilla is now and then going on between the Kurds who are gathered in the neighbourhood and the Armenians. It is stated that two Kurdish tribes, Motekan and Kharzan, are in sympathy with the latter, and it is they who are provisioning them. There is a rumour also that among them there are a few Armenians, Russian subjects, who are encouraging and supplying them with money, and who have been seen travelling in those parts, and inciting the Armenians to sedition. I give all the above with reserve, as I am not in a position to verify or sift it.

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No. 255.

Sir P. Currie the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 465.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 10, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting an outrage by Kurds at Todavéren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September* 24, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report the following Kurdish outrage, which occurred on Thursday, the 15th instant, at the village of Todavéren, in the Caza of Passin, about 30 miles distant from Erzeroum.

At sundown on the day in question, the village was suddenly attacked by a band of sixteen Kurdish horsemen, who at once opened fire on the house occupied by the Armenian Protestant pastor, Baron Sukiasian, who was absent at Erzeroum. Over 100 rifle-shots were fired, and the doors and windows riddled with bullet, the wife of the pastor being killed on the spot and two women seriously wounded. After this exploit, the Kurds rode off rapidly, abandoning a flock of sheep which two of their number, who had remained outside the village as vedettes, had begun to drive off. Troops were sent to the village the day after the outrage, but they failed to effect anything.

The two wounded women were brought into Erzeroum by one of the American missionaries who visited Todavéren as soon as possible after the outrage, and they are being treated by a Government physician.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 256.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 467.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 11, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, reporting certain regulations which have been introduced affecting the free attendance of Armenian children at American schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, October* 5, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that instructions have been sent to the Vali of Angora affecting the free attendance of Armenian children at American schools.

As far as I have been able to learn, these new measures are to the effect that Armenian parents must become sureties for their children's conduct as loyal subjects both during and after their attendance at American schools.

In cases where the responsible Government official learns anything concerning the parents to render them, in his opinion, unreliable, their children will not be allowed to attend the schools.

This step has been taken owing to the presence, among prisoners arrested in connection with recent events, of several students and graduates of American colleges, and affects other Vilayets besides this one.

As the responsibility of discerning between reliable and unreliable persons is not likely to be readily assumed by the officials in each place where an American educational establishment exists, it is my humble opinion that the obvious purpose of these measures will be effectually attained if they are strictly enforced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 257.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 472.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 15, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo, reporting on the conditions of the Armenians in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, October* 5, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Turkish authorities of this vilayet are tacitly exercising again a kind of persecution against the Armenians.

I am told that during the last three or four weeks about forty persons have been arrested in the various districts, and sent under escort to Alexandretta and Adana; amongst them there are two priests.

It is also reported that at the village of Kirik-Khan, "a station on the Aleppo road," all the khans and shops kept by Armenians have been closed, and it is said that the local authorities intend even to expel them from the country.

It is to be remarked that the Turkish authorities, in arresting and expelling the Armenians from their present residences, give them no time to settle their interests, neither do they explain to them the reason of such a vexatious and harmful measure taken against them.

I must add, in conclusion, that the present condition of the Armenians in these countries is really pitiful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 258.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 474.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 460 of the 6th instant inclosing Dr. Jewett's letter, reporting the disturbances at Tokat, I have the honour to state that the Grand Vizier referred to this affair when I called on him on the 13th instant.

His Highness stated that an organized attack by members of the "Hantchak," or Armenian Revolutionary Committee, was made on the mails, and the sum of £T. 1,500 was stolen and a gendarme killed. The so-called brigands were, he said, from Tokat, and when the police, who were sent to arrest them, had entered the house of one of them, resistance was offered, and the consequence was that some lives were lost. His Highness said the matter was much exaggerated, and instead of the Turkish Government being blamed, the whole responsibility for the deed itself and for the resistance offered to the police ought to be thrown on the Armenians.

The Government had only taken proper measures to bring the malefactors, who were also political criminals, to justice.

His Highness said there had been no massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 259.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 475. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1894.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 309 of the 9th instant respecting the election of an Armenian Patriarch, I have the honour to report that I have received from a trustworthy source the following account of the communications which have recently passed between the Sultan and the *locum tenens* of the Armenian Patriarchate.

Some days ago the Sultan asked Mgr. Himayag if he was satisfied with his position. His Beatitude replied that, on the contrary, things were in a most unsatisfactory state, that he was unable to conduct the business of the Patriarchate, and did not even dare to sign any document as *locum tenens*.

He then urged the Sultan:—

1. To permit at once the election of a Patriarch;
2. To allow the General Assembly to meet;
3. To publish in the press an official "Communiqué" to the effect that the Sultan believed in the loyalty of the majority of the Armenian community, and looked upon his Armenian subjects with the same favour as the rest of his faithful subjects;
4. To instruct the local officials to act with lenieney and moderation; and
5. That a Commission, composed of Moslem and Armenian officials, should meet at the Porte to inquire into Armenian grievances, and find a remedy.

In reply, His Majesty declined to permit the convocation of the General Assembly or to authorize the proposed Mixed Commission, and vouchsafed no reply to the third and fourth points, but stated that he would immediately take steps for the election of the Patriarch, not, however, by the General Assembly, but by the voice of some leading Armenian Notables, who should be presided over by Artin Pasha, as the leading Armenian official in the State, in whom he had confidence.

Artin Pasha, who has been informed by Mgr. Himayag of His Majesty's intentions, is much perplexed, and says that he sees no satisfactory issue. If he declines to carry out the election, the Sultan will lose confidence in him, whilst if he does proceed to the election, the Armenians will decline to recognize a Patriarch elected in so unconstitutional a manner, and matters will be worse than before.

The Sultan has not yet given his instructions to Artin Pasha, but several leading Armenians who have heard of His Majesty's intention have already consulted his Excellency, and have pointed out that only a Patriarch elected in a constitutional manner by the General Assembly would be accepted by the community.

It is probable that Artin Pasha will, with his usual adroitness, find means of getting out of the difficulty without losing the favour of the Sultan, but his position is somewhat critical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 260.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October 22.*)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1894.

THE reports which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward from Mush, and the substance of which I have telegraphed to your Lordship, show that the recent disturbances in the Vilayet of Bitlis have been suppressed by the Turkish Government with great severity. There appears to be no doubt that large numbers of the inhabitants have been killed, and that many others have fled, leaving their flocks and herds behind them, and that the district is almost entirely depopulated.

I had instructed Mr. Hallward, whose journey had been sanctioned by your Lordship so long ago as the 31st July, to proceed to Mush, when I first heard of the dispatch of troops to the disturbed districts, but an accident prevented his leaving at once, and it was not until the end of September that he reached Mush.

On the 4th October he telegraphed that, in consequence of an outbreak of cholera at Mush, a sanitary cordon had been drawn round the place, and that ten days' quarantine was imposed on all persons leaving for Sassoon. He was prepared to undergo quarantine, but the Turkish authorities refused to grant him an escort without instructions from Constantinople.

I thereupon requested the Grand Vizier to instruct the authorities at Mush to give Mr. Hallward the usual facilities, but at the earnest request of his Highness, who urged that Mr. Hallward's presence in the disturbed districts at the present moment would encourage a renewal of the insurrection, his journey was, with your Lordship's sanction, postponed for a time. Mr. Hallward himself represented that unless he could be exempted from quarantine, it would be too late in the season for him to undertake the journey.

In a telegram I received from him yesterday he says that he cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information given him at Mush, and, as he cannot visit the scene of action, I am unable at present to furnish your Lordship with a reliable account of what has taken place.

It may be useful, however, to recapitulate the circumstances, most of which have already been reported to your Lordship, that led to the lamentable events referred to.

The district of Sassoon where Talori is situated, is the wildest and most mountainous part of Guendj, which is described as the worst governed Mutessariflic in the Empire. The Armenians who inhabit it, unlike those of the lowland districts, are a fierce and warlike race, hardly distinguishable from their Kurd neighbours, who exercise a sort of feudal authority over them, but do not, as a rule, oppress them further than by levying taxes on them, and requiring their help as vassals in their feuds and quarrels with the local authorities. There are 3,000 Armenians in the district, and 15,000 Kurds.* The latter have never been thoroughly subdued, and furnish neither recruits nor taxes to the Ottoman Government.

Colonel Chermside, who has drawn up for me a description of the Bitlis Vilayet, gives the following account of the Sassoon district:—

"Sassoon is a poor mountainous district, intersected by deep and precipitous gorges; it is said to take its name from Sanazar, one of the two sons of Sennacherib. It is traversed by no caravan routes, but by tracks used by the nomads in their migrations. There is good pasture and a considerable amount of forest. Intimate relations are maintained between the Armenians of Sassoon and the Kurds, their former feudal lords."

* These numbers are taken from Mr. Graves' Report, but apply only to a portion of the district. The following numbers are supplied by Colonel Chermside from official sources:—

Caza of Sassoon (Armenians)	..	..	..	..	..	8,389
Caza of Modki	(ditto)	..	..	..	..	5,710
Caza of Khulp	(ditto)	..	..	..	..	699

The troubles appear to have commenced in the summer of 1893, when some Kurdish tribes not belonging to the district attacked and plundered the village of Talori. The Mutessarif of Guendj arrived with an armed force; several Armenians were arrested but no Kurds, and the soldiers carried off whatever property had not been plundered by the marauders. The Mutessarif informed the Bitlis authorities that the Armenians were in revolt, and the latter withdrew in fear to the mountain fastnesses, where they passed the winter.

On learning these incidents from Mr. Boyajian, Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, in May last, I brought them to the notice of the Grand Vizier, who gave me another version of the affair, and declared that the Armenians had attacked Moslems, and after killing them, had desecrated their corpses. He added that peace had been completely restored, and that no arrests had been made on either side. This version was no doubt supplied by the Bitlis authorities, but, according to the information obtained by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, Mr. Boyajian's account was the true one, and the bad reputation of Tahsin Pasha, the Vali of Bitlis, makes his assertions unreliable.

According to Mr. Graves, there was reason to believe that the Bitlis Government had secretly encouraged the Kurds to pick a quarrel and attack the Armenians in force, but that the Talori men had made an obstinate defence and had killed large numbers of the aggressors. The action of the authorities was apparently prompted by a desire to destroy the independence of the district.

The Armenians of Talori having returned to their villages in the spring, gendarmes were sent there to collect arrears of taxes. The people protested that, in consequence of the treatment they had received at the hands of the Kurds, they were unable to contribute, not having enough to support life; and, while declaring their loyalty to the Government, they stated that it was impossible for them to pay taxes if they were not protected by the authorities against the Kurds.

The Kaïmakam of the district thereupon came into the village himself, and insulted and maltreated the inhabitants. The Talori villagers, exasperated by his conduct, set upon him and beat him. The Kaïmakam reported to the Mutessarif of Guendj that the villagers had rebelled, and asked for forces to coerce them. Three hundred gendarmes were sent, and the Armenians of Talori and of the neighbouring villages withdrew, some 1,500 strong, to the mountains. The gendarmes being unable to follow them, reinforcements were asked for, and the Vali of Bitlis called upon the Military Commandant at Erzinjan to send a strong military force to repress the movement, which he described as an insurrection of the Armenians. Extensive military preparations were forthwith made, reserves were called out, recruits enrolled, and six or seven battalions were dispatched from Erzeroum at the end of August. On the 1st September Mr. Graves reported that three Hamidieh regiments of Kurdish cavalry had been sent to the disturbed district, and that Hussein Pasha, a Kurd of very evil repute, had left Erzeroum with the supposed intention of taking command of them. On receipt of this information, I pointed out to the Grand Vizier the danger of sending those Hamidieh regiments for the suppression of disturbances, and reminded him of the disastrous effects produced by the employment of irregular troops in Bulgaria. His Highness gave me the assurance that the Hamidieh troops, which, he said, consisted of only three squadrons, would proceed no further than Mush, where they would act as a garrison in place of the regular troops, which were leaving that town for Talori. He added that the disturbances were confined to the last-named place, and that there was no doubt that the revolted Armenians would promptly disperse as soon as the military force made its appearance. Zeki Pasha, the Mushir of the 4th Army Corps, had been ordered to take the command in person and to allow no excesses.

The Grand Vizier went on to say that, in the mountainous districts where the outbreak had taken place, there was little difference between the Kurds and Armenians, both races being equally fierce and turbulent. He attributed the outbreak to the manœuvres of the Revolutionary Committee, which, having already created troubles at Marsovan, Yuzgat, and other places in the more civilized parts of Asia Minor, had now turned its attention to the wild and mountainous districts of the Vilayet of Bitlis.

It was absolutely necessary, he said, to put down these disturbances with a strong hand, but he apprehended no difficulty in doing so, and believed that tranquillity would soon be restored.

It appears from the reports now received, that the Hamidieh troops took no part in the operations; but after remaining ten days at Mush, were ordered to their homes.

Mr. Graves reported on the 29th September that Zeki Pasha had returned, and that the troops would be withdrawn from Mush. The Mushir did not anticipate further trouble, and considered the accounts given by the Vali of Bitlis of the disturbances as much exaggerated. The Grand Vizier has promised to communicate to me the substance of the official Reports received from Zeki Pasha: and he has undertaken that as soon as the sanitary cordon round Mush is withdrawn, and the state of the weather permits it, facilities will be given Vice-Consul Hallward to visit the scene of the recent troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 261.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 480.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 460 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the case of Dikran Chamgherdanian, who was arrested at Samsoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, October 6, 1894.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, his Excellency Cadri Bey has this day informed me that although nothing compromising was discovered in the house or on the person of Dikran Chamgherdanian, and although the Governor of Samsoon found him entirely innocent, the Vali Khalil Bey insisted on his being sent to him as a prisoner to Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 262.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 481.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that orders have been issued to stop the migration from the interior of the country to Constantinople, which is usual at this season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Trebizond, October 6, 1894.*

IT is customary at this season for the poorer classes in the interior to migrate to Constantinople in search of winter work.

Those who had already reached the capital have been turned back, and an Imperial Order has been issued to stop the emigration.

The poor people, who had scraped together only enough money for the journey are now being forced to return to their homes in the districts of Van, Mush Erzeroum, &c.

Those attempting to proceed to Constantinople by land have also been stopped by the authorities charged with this distasteful task.

I am told by the Vali that it is Kiazim Bey, the Minister of Police, who has, for his own ends, influenced the Sultan in the matter, by representing to His Majesty the danger of another Koum-Kapou incident by the accumulation of Armenians at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 263.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 482.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 307 of the 9th instant, forwarding a note from Rustem Pasha on the subject of the journey of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to the Hekkiari district, and instructing me to explain to the Sublime Porte the real facts of the case.

It is evident that some confusion has been made between Mr. Hallward and Mr. Devey, as it was the former who was attacked by dogs, and the latter who went to the Hekkiari district to visit the Nestorians.

Before the arrival of your Lordship's despatch, I had had complaints both from the Grand Vizier and Said Pasha that Mr. Hallward, during his visit to Moush, had given out that he had been sent to hold an inquiry, and that he was prepared to hear evidence. I informed them that Mr. Hallward's instructions would not justify such a statement, and that his journey was simply one of observation. At the same time, I telegraphed to acquaint him with the representations that had been made. He replied that the allegations of the Porte were groundless, and that he had neither said or done anything to justify them. I accordingly instructed Mr. Block to communicate this denial to the Grand Vizier, and at the same time to carry out the instructions in your Lordship's despatch No. 307. I desired him further to state to His Highness that I was ready to communicate to the Porte the information respecting the state of the country, which we had received from our Consular officers, and that I considered this course, which I had hitherto pursued, was to the advantage of the Turkish Government, as they thus obtained impartial information of what was really going on, and knowledge of facts which were sometimes withheld, if not concealed, by local Governors. I added that I hoped the Porte would not continue to make these frivolous and unfounded accusations, which could not fail to give an impression that this state of things in the Asiatic provinces would not bear investigation, and that they were anxious to put obstacles in the way of the journeys undertaken by Her Majesty's Consular officers in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 264.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 483.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting Abdelzrak Bey, the son of the Kurdish Chieftain, Bedekham Pasha.

The circumstances reported in the paragraph from the "Times," quoted by Mr. Longworth, were a general subject of conversation here a few weeks ago, and were alluded to in my despatch No. 450 of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Trebizond, October 6, 1894.*

IN September 1892 I informed Sir Clare Ford privately the conveyance under strict surveillance from the interior through Trebizond to Constantinople of Abdelzrak Bey and Khalil Bey, two of the forty sons of the once famous Kurdish Chieftain, Bedrkhan Pasha, father of the notorious Moussa Bey, now dead or alive in exile.

It was said at the time that, belonging to the Ottoman Diplomatic Service in Russia, the two brothers visited clandestinely their home and accepted the protest of some 10,000 of their clansmen against the formation of the Kurdish auxiliary cavalry force named "Hamidieh."

I beg now to annex herewith copy of a paragraph which appeared recently in the "Times," and to report confidentially that the Vali of Trebizond has received a secret telegram from the Palace, ordering him to have Abdelzrak Bey killed wherever and whenever met.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Extract from the "Times" of September , 1894.

THE NEW KURDISH FORCE.—A correspondent well acquainted with affairs in Kurdistan writes to us as follows:—

"The Russians have for some time been observing closely the formation and organization by the Turks of the new Kurdish cavalry force, styled 'Hamidieh,' near their frontier in Asia. Several regiments have been already completed, fully equipped, armed with modern improved weapons, and officered from the regular army. This auxiliary force might, it is thought, prove inconvenient to Cossack horsemen in certain contingencies, and accordingly a scheme has been set on foot for bringing it under Russian influence. An influential Kurdish Chief of the family of the former famous Chieftain, Bedkrhan Bey, to whom the Kurds generally have never abondoned their allegiance, has been invited by the Russians to return to his mountain fastnesses, and recover his authority as hereditary head of the clans in Kurdistan, on the understanding that he will enjoy Russian protection and assistance. On this understanding the Bey has left Constantinople for Sebastopol to proceed thence to Batoum, and by rail to Tiflis. There the Governor-General will afford him all facilities for getting to the frontier, whence he can easily join his fellow clansmen.

No. 264*.

The Archbishop of Canterbury to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *Addington Park, Croydon, October 22, 1894.*

I HAVE to acknowledge, with my best thanks, the receipt of your Lordship's letters of the 20th September and the 6th October, inclosing the printed paper, Asiatic Turkey No. 665, and the Memorandum from Mr. Devey dated the 20th September, 1894.

I am very grateful for the information, which is most important, and I desire to express my concurrence with your Lordship's suggestion to instruct Sir P. Currie to endeavour to arrange that the Patriarch Mar Shimun may have "means of direct communication with the Sultan's Ministers" provided by the establishment of a "Vekil."

With regard to Mr. Devey's statement that there will be a new tax of only 1 piastre on every individual, it should be borne in mind that this will amount to multiplying the tax by four or five, since, at present, it is levied only on adult males. The other items of increase, although apparently small, are such as to impoverish so poor a population, which scarcely obtains a living.

I am very glad to hear that Mr. Devey thinks the population is not moving, and I trust it is so. But a letter dated the 22nd September speaks of meeting over Turkish families (sixty in number) endeavouring to escape from Turkey "on account of the taxation," and being driven back by soldiers.

I have now much pleasure in informing your Lordship that Nimrod, who has for some time past been acting disloyally and in opposition to the Patriarch, has sought forgiveness from Mar Shimun, expressed in words his sorrow for his wrong-doing, and has received permission to return to Kochanes with full forgiveness, so that we may hope one disquieting element has been removed. This reconciliation is probably much due to Mr. Browne's residence at Kochanes. Mar Shimun, his sister—who is an important personage—and others all place great confidence in Mr. Browne, and by reason of his quiet gentleness and general friendliness he is able to give advice in an acceptable manner. Our whole experience is that his work has been very tranquillizing in more than one serious situation.

I am informed that a loyal Address, sealed by Mar Shimun, and also by Nimrod and many others, is being prepared for presentation to His Majesty the Sultan, which will probably be ready early in the winter for presentation. They begged the missionaries to assist them in preparing the Address, which they did, as far as the form of drafting was concerned.

Mar Shimun's statement to Mr. Devey that in June his salary was eight months in arrear accords with what we have heard from month to month. He was, indeed, told he might collect taxes in lieu of it from some of his poor villages, but, of course, could not do this. He is at present in difficulties with some of the Ashiret tribes for having himself assented to the enrolment.

I am venturing to send to your Lordship a copy of the Report of the Board of Missions, on pp. 79-96 of which reference is made to this Mission, and the statistics given were collected with very great pains and care by Sir Frederic Goldsmid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. CANTUAR.

No. 265.

Evangelical Alliance to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *7, Adam Street, Strand, October 22, 1894.*

REFERRING to my previous letters on the subject of religious liberty in Turkey, I have now the pleasure to inform your Lordship that the Protestant congregation at Ordou have yielded to the suggestion of the Turkish authorities, and determined to build for themselves a new church farther away from the Greek church.

This removes the only cause of friction between the two communities, and we hope that the Sultan's Government will be prompt in issuing the "permit" so that the Protestants may not be longer than is necessary deprived of a place of worship. They have already suffered much in this way.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) A. J. ARNOLD,
General Secretary.

No. 266.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 323.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 461 of the 7th instant, forwarding certain statements that have been made to Her Majesty's Consul at Angora in favour of the Armenians under sentence of death at Yuzgat.

I approve of the communication which you state that you propose to make to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 267.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 485.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 20, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 476 of the 15th, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a document communicated to me by Said Pasha, which purports to be the Turkish version of the origin of the Talori incident. This Memorandum does not give the information promised me by the Grand Vizier as to what took place during the operations against the Armenians.

His Highness professes ignorance as to the number of persons killed.

I have instructed Mr. Block to point out to his Highness that he promised to send me the Mushir Zeki Pasha's Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Memorandum.

ON n'a certainement pas perdu de vue le souvenir du fameux révolutionnaire Damadian, qui, originaire de Hatchim, Vilayet d'Adana, avait suivi pendant huit années environ les cours de l'École de Médecine Civile, avait trempé dans l'échauffaudée de Coum-Capou, et avait réussi, au moment où il était recherché, à s'enfuir à Athènes, et gagner de là la ville de Gênes.

A la faveur d'un déguisement il était rentré plus tard, sous le nom de Mourah, par la voie d'Alexandrette et de Diarbékir, à Talouri, où il a été enfin arrêté au moment où il se disposait à commettre de nouveaux méfaits. Ce révolutionnaire a eu un continuateur de son œuvre en la personne d'un certain Hamparsoum. Non content d'exciter les Arméniens à la révolte par la parole seulement, il les a poussé à attaquer la ville de Moush, et à s'emparer des armes et munitions se trouvant au dépôt militaire, en massacrant tous les Musulmans qu'ils auraient rencontrés sur leur chemin. Passant pour un Européen, et se faisant fort de faire venir d'Angleterre des troupes en ballon au secours de ses coreligionnaires dans le cas où ils se dirigeraient contre l'autorité, leur assurant, d'autre part, que leur rébellion serait partout soutenue, il est parvenu à soulever la population Arménienne d'une dizaine de villages situés dans ces parages. Il a formé ainsi des bandes armées de fusils Berdan non rayés et à pierre, de poignards, de hautzers [*sic*], de haches, et d'autres engins de guerre, et avec leur concours il a attaqué, vers la fin du mois de Juillet passé, d'abord la tribu de Vélikian, dont il a tué quelques-uns et dévalisé d'autres. Il s'est dirigé ensuite contre les tribus de Jekran et de Jadikian, et s'emparant du neveu d'Omer Agha, un des Chefs de la première de ces deux tribus, le nommé Hadjin, il l'a brûlé en emplissant son ventre de poudre de guerre. Il n'a pas épargné non plus les femmes Musulmanes du village de Kulli-Kiouzat, auxquelles il a infligé les derniers outrages avant de les mettre à mort d'une façon qui fait vraiment frémir. Les moyens employés à l'égard des hommes ne le cédaient nullement en cruauté. Aux uns on attachaient une corde au cou pour les traîner dans les rues, à d'autres encore on coupait les oreilles.

Jouissant du spectacle de leurs atrocités, ces bandes se livraient à toute sorte de propos insultants contre la religion de l'État, et poussaient des vivas en faveur de leur soi-disant Roi.

Le village de Kulli-Kezat, et quelques autres encore se trouvant sur leur passage, ont été incendiés.

En cette triste situation le Gouvernement n'a pas failli à son devoir. Grâce aux sages mesures adoptées, ces bandes révolutionnaires ont été dispersées. Hanparsoum et le curé de l'église de Kizil, Mighirdiken, convaincu de complicité avec Hamparsoum et Damadian, ont été arrêtés, avec tous leurs acolytes, et livrés aux Tribunaux.

Quant aux femmes et enfants qui avaient été enlevés pendant le mouvement et enfermés dans des cavernes, ils ont été délivrés et réinstallés dans leurs villages.

Bref, la tranquillité a été rétablie.

Il ne reste plus que de procéder à la punition des coupables après leurs jugements.

No. 268.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 484. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 15, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 460 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, forwarding copy of a statement signed by Armenian Notables at Sivas respecting the disturbances at Tokat, which had been sent to him by Dr. Jewett.

The authors of the document earnestly request that their names may not be divulged.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 268.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Trebizond, October* 12, 1894.

ON receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 29th ultimo, asking me whether I had any information respecting the disturbance at Tokat, I referred your Excellency to my despatch of the same date, and I wired to Dr. Jewett to send me the statement mentioned in his letter, copy of which I had forwarded therein.

The documents received now by me from Sivas are two in French, one in Turkish, and one in Armenian.

They all bear three signatures and the seal of the Armenian Vicarage of Tokat. It will suffice to transmit herewith copies of the French only, as the other two are much the same in substance.

The authors of the documents most earnestly request not to have their names divulged to the Turkish Government.

The excesses committed are stated by them to have resulted in the death of three individuals, and the injury by wounds of twenty-two, in females violated, and persons terrified into sickness, houses damaged and property stolen to the extent of some 300*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Statements on Tokat Disturbances.

M. le Consul,

L'ÉVÉNEMENT affreux du 20 Août (1er Septembre), qui a réduit plusieurs familles dans la misère, et dont vous avez déjà connaissance, a été répété aussi le lendemain avec le même déréglement. La populace Turque, mêlée des Commissaires, s'est fondue de nouveau sur quelques quartiers habités par les Arméniens, opérant toute sorte de cruautés, et faisant des pillages dans certaines maisons; et pour comble de malheur on a violé quelques vierges et quelques femmes par une sorte barbaresque qu'aucune conscience ne la permette jamais, en effectuant ainsi la menace terrible qu'on entendait partout: "tuons les mâles Arméniens, attentons à la pudeur de leurs familles, et pillons leurs effets."

Pendant ces jours-là quelques Chrétiens qui allaient aux vignes et aux villages, et en revenaient ont été assommés et dépouillés par des Turcs. Les rues de notre ville ont été spectacles des faits semblables, et c'est par cette cause que certains Chrétiens n'ont osé ouvrir leurs boutiques pendant deux ou trois jours.

A l'égard de cet événement fâcheux l'Administration de notre Prélature a télégraphié à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et à notre Patriarcat même, mais le Vali de Sivas, qui s'était hâté de venir à Tokat se fâcha vivement et nous força de faire retourner notre dépêche, qui a été transmise jusqu'à la première station, et qui se trouve encore dans nos mains. Le Vali, Khalil Bey, nous a défendu absolument de télégraphier et d'écrire nulle part pour cet événement. Nos Pétitions y relatives sont rejetées par les menaces des agents de police sans être présentées au Gouverneur-Général, et qui lui-même a violé sa promesse pour arrêter les criminels et les punir d'après la loi; et les anciennes rigueurs continuent contre les Arméniens plus fortement, de sorte que le nombre des emprisonnés se multiplie sans cesse, et les vaines investigations et recherches dans les quartiers et maisons habités par les Arméniens ont lieu presque tous les jours par les moyens les plus illégaux et les plus barbares.

En cette occasion des Commissaires et des soldats effrontés et farouches osent faire des infamies honteuses en présence même de leurs Chefs envers les femmes et les filles effrayées dans les maisons recherchées; ils volent les argents et les autres objets précieux qu'ils y trouvent pendant leurs recherches, et souvent en l'absence des habitants ils enfoncent les portes des maisons, y entrent et brisent les portes des chambres, les coffres, les tiroirs, et en ruinant tout, ils s'en vont chargés souvent de butins.

Notre Patriarcat de Constantinople avait voulu dernièrement s'informer des susdits événements; par conséquent, nous fûmes contraints de les retélégraphier à notre Patriarcat et même au Palais Impérial; mais le Vali, Khalil Bey, a empêché la transmission de notre télégramme, qui reste encore au bureau du télégraphe, et dont le récépissé se trouve entre nos mains. Son Excellence ne s'étant pas contentée de cela, a assujetti

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à l'interrogation judiciaire les prêtres qui ont signé le dit télégramme, et il a emprisonné même le secrétaire de notre Prélature, qui l'avait rédigé, et qui reste enfermé jusqu'à présent dans la prison. C'est pour la même cause, nous croyons, que les deux membres laïques de notre Prélature sont mis en prison. Ainsi notre recours à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan pour ces inconvenances est regardé comme un grand crime, et ceux qui osent lui recourir sont fortement assujettis à l'interrogatoire et jetés en prison, où des centaines d'innocents, à partir d'adolescents et de vierges de 14 à 15 ans jusqu'aux vieillards, souffrent et gémissent en vertu des cruautés inouïes, et où des immoralités de toutes espèces s'opèrent sans punition. Il est impossible de décrire ici la misère de plusieurs de ces prisonniers et de leurs familles pauvres, qui se trouvent aujourd'hui réellement dans la nécessité de rester affamées.

Le 5 (17) Septembre, de ces prisonniers vingt-deux ont été envoyés de nuit à Angora pour y être jugés, et c'est douloureux que le Gouvernement n'en a pas informé d'avance leurs familles pour qu'elles puissent leur procurer des linges, des habits d'hiver, et de l'argent nécessaire pour leur nourriture, de sorte que ces malheureux se mirent en route dans la dernière indigence.

Quant aux villages d'alentour les récits les plus déchirants nous en arrivent chaque jour. Tous les jours des centaines de hussards et soldats tournent autour de ces villages; ils y entrent, arrêtent les villageois en prétendant que "Vous mettez les fuyards à l'abri;" ils leurs donnent cruellement des coups de bâton; ils entrent même dans les maisons et ils pillent tout ce qu'il leur plaît; ils procurent pour leurs chevaux du foin et de l'orge en brisant par force les greniers des pauvres villageois; ils s'emparent des brebis les plus grasses de leurs troupeaux et les dévorent avidement; et pour comble de malheur, ils arrêtent et enchaînent ceux qui sont riches, et les menacent de les conduire à la ville et les livrer au Gouvernement sous le prétexte qu'ils protègent les fuyards, s'ils refusent de leur donner quelques pièces d'or. Ainsi ces pauvres villageois sont contraints de leur payer la somme exigée pour se sauver à leur cruauté, mais ceux qui n'ont pas le moyen de leur payer, sont traînés, battus par les soldats, ou sont jetés en prison, sans l'espoir de s'en sauver vite.

De semblables événements se répètent tous les jours dans les villages habités par les Arméniens dont la position actuelle est, en effet, digne de compassion.

A cause de l'indifférence du Gouvernement à l'égard de ces abus des fonctionnaires inférieurs, et surtout à cause de ce que les auteurs de l'événement du 20 Août (1er Septembre) restèrent impunis, la communauté Turque étant encouragée, a montré de nouveau, le 8 (20) Septembre, Jeudi, que son indignation et sa rage ne sont pas calmées, et qu'elle cherche toujours des prétextes pour se venger des Arméniens.

Une femme Turque, instigée probablement par quelques Turcs turbulents, informa la police qu'elle a vu en tel endroit tel fuyard recherché par le Gouvernement; par conséquent des centaines de Turcs, accompagnés d'une foule de Commissaires, se sont fondus sur le quartier où l'ancien événement tragique avait eu lieu; ils entrent avec eux dans les maisons, en chargeant cruellement la plupart des habitants de coups de bâton, et les mettant dans l'effroi de mort. On dit qu'un d'eux est malade près à la mort, et qu'au milieu de ce trouble une montre a été volée de l'une des maisons et 8 Medjidiehs d'une autre. Les femmes des habitants de ces quartiers nous ont raconté, les larmes aux yeux, leur position déplorable, venant en foule à notre Prélature: elles ont déclaré qu'elles ne sont plus sûres pour leurs vies dans les quartiers qu'elles habitent, et elles supplièrent qu'on leur désigne un autre endroit pour s'y établir.

Dans cet état des choses où toutes les voies légales de plainte sont fermées devant nous, où nous sommes empêchés de faire parvenir à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan qui ne veut pas sans doute que de pareils actes illégaux soient opérés, et qui épargne tous ses sujets, avec une sollicitude paternelle, de l'assujettissement aux vaines oppressions, vous pouvez vous imaginer aisément, M. le Consul, notre situation actuelle désespérée; surtout quand on voudra prendre en considération que les Turcs de notre ville se préparent à un nouvel assaut sur les Chrétiens, étant encouragés par la conduite du Vali et par l'impunité des auteurs du dernier événement. En effet, les Turcs de tout ordre, officiels et non officiels, portent leurs armes ouvertement ou en secret, tandis que les vieilles armes non défendues qui se trouvent dans les maisons des Arméniens ont été confisquées. On entend même de tous côtés la dissension affreuse de massacrer les Chrétiens. Nous ne pouvons pas supposer pour rien cette menace terrible, dont la preuve effective en a confirmé la possibilité, et que l'indignation et la haine de la haute classe Turque et même des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement local contre les Arméniens dépassent maintenant toute mesure.

Dans notre situation fâcheuse nous n'avons d'autres moyens pour notre sûreté que celui d'avoir recours à vous, et de vous supplier avec imploration de vouloir bien remédier

immédiatement à notre condition si triste, en communiquant cette question à qui elle convient et de hâter des dispenses convenables.

Nous espérons que notre présent recours à vous restera en secret, car nous avons osé préparer ce Rapport et vous l'envoyer avec mille appréhensions; et si le Gouvernement le saura, il n'épargnera pas notre clergé et il nous jettera en prison, comme il a emprisonné déjà l'un de nos prêtres sous prétexte qu'il a fait chanter dans l'église une chanson interdite.

En attendant, agréez, M. le Consul, l'assurance de notre parfaite considération.

Le Représentant du Prélat Arménien,
(L.S.) (Signé) Rev. JOSEPH HALADJIAN.
Le Président de l'Assemblée Cléricale,
(L.S.) (Signé) Rev. JACQUES DENASHIAN.

Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) Rev. GABRIEL DERDERIAN.
Tokat, le 12 (24) *Septembre*, 1891.

Voici le résumé du Rapport des enquêtes faites dans les endroits de l'événement du 20 Août (1er Septembre) par le moyen de la police, d'un médecin de la Municipalité, et de notre Prélature:—

Dans le quartier Incaré.

1. Dans la maison No. 2, Mardiros Fendekian a reçu sur sa tête quatre blessures de baïonnette et de gros bâton; on voit sur son corps dix traces bleuâtres de bâton, et il garde le lit mortellement.

2. Dans la même maison, Shirinian Artine a reçu sur sa tête deux blessures.

3. Dans le No. 31, Courdian Agop a reçu une balle dans sa cuisse et il reste dans un état mortel; la balle est encore dans sa blessure et menace sa vie. Sa femme a reçu des coups sur sa poitrine et sur ses reins; elle fut assujettie même à l'impudicité d'un gardien Circassien.

4. Dans le No. 12, Roupén Dédéian, enfant de 10 ans, a reçu sur son corps des coups de bâton et en porte les traces.

5. Dans le No. 30, Zilèli Elia a reçu sur sa tête des blessures profondes, ses yeux sont ensanglantés et bleuâtres; il est blessé aussi au visage.

6. Dans le No. 6, Haylazian Garabet est tombé malade, lésé à son bras et blessé sérieusement à sa tête.

7. Dans le No. 18, Djertlian Serpouhi est violée barbarement par un agent de police. On dit que ses deux filles aussi ont été violées, mais elles ne veulent pas le déclarer par pudeur.

8. Dans le No. 3, Semerdjian Manouk près d'être égorgé, sa mère Mariam fut assommée horriblement et ensuite assujettie aux coups pendant qu'elle le défendait contre le dit danger.

9. Dans le No. 2, Tchinénian Mardiros fut blessé horriblement à sa tête par des coups de poignard et gourdin. Son père Sarkis, à peine échappé au danger d'être égorgé, fut mort ensuite de peur.

10. Dans le No. 15, Ayvazian Khachik fut blessé à sa tête et à ses épaules. Son fils Krikor fut blessé à sa tête par les coups de fusil d'un soldat.

11. Dans le No. 32, Tourshoundjian Ohan est horriblement assommé et blessé à sa tête aussi.

12. Dans le No. 16, Djertlian Ohan et son frère Artine sont assommés et foulés aux pieds. La femme accouchante d'Ohan, nommée Durik, fut également assommée. Leur mère et la femme d'Artine (Nectar) sont assujetties à l'insolence des soldats pendant qu'elles s'étaient cachées dans l'armoire pour lit de la maison voisine.

13. Dans le No. 20, Catzakhian Takouhi, après s'être échappée à la mort en se sauvant de toit en toit avec ses deux petits, à son retour fut violée par un soldat qui la traîna dans l'écurie; elle fut sauvée par son voisin, en y laissant sa jupe déchirée; son fils Mihran, âgé de 10 ans, a vomi du sang.

14. Dans le No. 29, Keshkekian Meguer et son frère Ohanes sont assommés et blessés à la tête, au visage, et aux divers côtés de leurs corps.

15. Dans la même maison, la femme d'Artine Shirinian, nommée Nartouhi, pendant qu'elle s'était réfugiée dans l'office avec son nouveau-né, fut assujettie à l'assaut et à

mpudence des soldats. Ses jambes sont noircies par les coups qu'elle a reçus, et son bébé fut à peine sauvé du danger d'être foulé aux pieds.

Dans le quartier de Djami-Kébir.

16. Le fils adolescent de Sherbetian Agop, nommé Artin, eut les lèvres crevées de peur, il se tourmenta de fièvres mortelles et finit par la mort.

Dans le quartier de Khadja Ahmed.

17. Boulgourian Ohanes a reçu trois blessures sur sa tête par la populace; son œil droit fut lésé; son poignet droit et son index furent brisés.

Dans le quartier de Savi Gullik.

18. Dans la maison No. 17, Avédikian Avédis a reçu cinq blessures sur sa tête par des coups de gourdins, et sa cuisse gauche est profondément blessée par le poignard.
19. Dans le No. 14, Keshishian Donik a des blessures sur son corps entier.
20. Kenork Kalousdian d'Amassia a cinq blessures profondes sur sa tête.

Dans le quartier Esafaki.

21. Dans le No. 9, Caribian Kevork est blessé à la tête, à sa coude gauche, et au dos.
22. Dans le No. 8, Garibian Meguerdich est blessé à la tête et porte des traces de coups de bâtons.
23. Un barbier pauvre, Haïoglou Kiragos, pendant qu'il retournait de sa boutique chez lui, fut attaqué par la populace; une balle de fusil lui traversa le menton et la nuque; il fut entraîné en prison où il expira.
24. Ekmékdjian Ohanes de Marsovan porte des blessures à sa tête, au dos, &c.
25. Zanikian Kevork est très blessé.

Par ce résumé de l'enquête faite, on comprend facilement que les événements d'un meurtre, de deux morts, d'une violence à la pudeur d'une femme, et vingt-deux blessés plus ou moins horribles ont eu lieu.

Laissons de côté plusieurs personnes qui ont été assommées, et celles qui sont malades de peur, et les femmes, les filles, et les enfants qui ont des diagnostiques plus ou moins graves et qui se trouvent dans presque toutes les maisons des quartiers susmentionnés. Il y a même une maison dans laquelle huit personnes gardent le lit.

Onze blessés sont conduits en prison, horriblement assommés et liés les mains dans un état ensanglant de la part de la populace Turque, et le Gouvernement les laissa libres après les avoir assujettis, dans la prison, à diverses oppressions à la joie de la populace Turque.

Les maisons attaquées sont vingt-cinq à trente; leurs murs sont démolis, les vitres cassés, les portes enfoncées, les coffres et les tiroires brisés, et la plupart des meubles, bijouterie, argenterie, habits, ustensils en cuivre et les nourritures même ont été dépouillés! On estime ces pertes à 200 ou 300 livres Turques, ce qui est sans doute une perte grave pour les habitants pauvres des quartiers susmentionnés, de sorte que des familles entières sont sujettes à une pauvreté insupportable!

Le Représentant du Prélat Arménien,
(L.S.) (Signé) Rev. JOSEPH HALADJIAN.
Le Président de l'Assemblée Cléricale,
(L.S.) (Signé) Rev. JACQUES DENASHINIAN.

Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) Rev. GABRIEL DERDERIAN.
Tokat, le 12 (24) *Septembre*, 1894.

No. 269.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 487.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 23, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a translation of an extract from the "Sabah" of the 17th instant, giving an account of the presentation of their Commissions to the officers of four new Hamidieh cavalry regiments which have been enrolled in the Diarbekir district.

The "Sabah" states that with the formation of these regiments the organization of the Hamidieh cavalry is now complete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Extract from the "Sabah" of October 5 (17), 1894.

(Translation.)

HAMIDIÉ CAVALRY REGIMENTS.—Four regiments have been formed of the Kara Ketchi and Milli tribes of the Diarbekir Vilayet from the Hamidié cavalry, whose organization has now been brought to a successful termination. The Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps thereupon put himself into communication with his Excellency the Governor-General with a view that the 113 Bouyouruldis, together with the fourteen Berats which contained the appointments of the officers and Chiefs attached to the above-mentioned regiments, should be handed to them by his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha and Khalil Bey. The Chiefs of the above-mentioned tribes were accordingly instructed by a special despatch to proceed to Diarbekir, bringing with them the officers and Chiefs of their regiments. The aforesaid Ibrahim Pasha and Khalil Bey having subsequently arrived at Diarbekir with their respective staffs, the Berats above referred to were handed to each officer with the formalities specially prescribed for these occasions.

No. 270.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 488.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 24, 1894.

WITH reference to Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 109 of the 27th March, 1893, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the Narman prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 10, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the case of the Narman prisoners, now lying in the Erzeroum gaol, which formed the subject of Mr. Hampson's despatches of the 26th December, 1891, and of the 16th January, 1892, and of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatches of the 11th March and the 22nd April, 1893.

Though there is some doubt about the exact numbers, so far as I can ascertain sixty-one Armenians of the villages of Vekhihass and Ekrek, in the Caza of Tortoum, were originally arrested in the autumn of 1891, charged with being concerned in the murder of three Turks, two of whom had themselves been arrested on suspicion of murdering three Armenians at Vekhihass in August 1890, but were released after a

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short detention. These prisoners comprised almost all the adult male population of the two villages mentioned, which have been entirely broken up, most of the remnant of their inhabitants having taken refuge in the neighbouring Russian district of Olti, while their lands have been occupied by Moslem immigrants from Russia.

After about a year and a-half of detention, during which period eight of their number died in prison, the remaining fifty-three were brought to trial early in March 1893 before a court-martial, which sentenced twenty-three of them to death, and thirty to various terms of imprisonment in penal servitude ("mouvakkat kyurek"). A protest which they entered against the irregularities of their trial was referred to Constantinople, and, as I gather, orders were received to institute further inquiries into the case, with a view to a fresh trial by court-martial.

More than a year and a-half has elapsed since the trial, and I am informed that nine more of the prisoners have died in gaol, making seventeen who have already lost their lives, and leaving forty-four out of the original sixty-one who have now undergone three years' close confinement; while three fresh prisoners have recently been added to their number.

Mr. Fitzmaurice has dwelt upon the salient points of this deplorable affair in his despatch of the 11th March, 1893, and I can but indorse his conclusions. The subsequent facts speak for themselves, and I venture to express the opinion that a fitter case could not be found for the exercise of the sovereign prerogative of clemency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 271.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 489.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 24, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, giving an account of the recent disturbances at Bitlis, which he has gathered from Armenian sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 271.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 13, 1894.*

THE following is a short account, compiled by me from Armenian sources only, of the disturbances in the Bitlis Vilayet, which your Excellency may find interesting as a purely *ex parte* version. I have drawn most of this information from the stories of Armenians ariving here from Moush and Bitlis, and from the contents of a letter which was shown here to one of my colleagues purporting to be written by the leader of the Armenians in Talori to sympathizers in Russian Armenia, where it will probably be published in the Armenian newspapers. This leader passes under the name of "Mourad," but he is said to be really a Dr. Hamparsoum Effendi, who fled from Constantinople at the time of the Koum Kapou affair, and has been engaged with other agitators for some time past in preparing the ground in Sassoon for a revolt against Turkish authority.

I do not imagine that any real disaffection against the Government previously existed among the Sassoon Armenians on national grounds, but it is clear from Mr. Boyajina's reports that the Talori people had already been driven to the verge of revolt by Kurdish persecution and Government mismanagement, and "Mourad" and his fellows had naturally taken advantage of this fact to enlist them in their movement, the design being, no doubt, to enter upon a hopeless struggle, certain to be followed by a massacre on a scale great enough to provoke the attention and interference of foreign Powers.

But the actual outbreak took place at some distance from Talori and close to Moush, probably early in August last. The Khiyan Kurds had raided the Armenian village of Gelié Ghenim and carried off a flock of 200 sheep, and a band of Armenians of Gelié Ghenim, joined by their neighbours of Semal, Shiuik, and Gelié Guzan, retaliated by a raid in which they carried off 300 sheep, and killed some twenty or thirty Kurds with small loss to themselves. On this the Khiyan Kurds (2) complained to the Governor of Moush, and the Vali of Bitlis came to Moush with a detachment of troops who joined the Kurds in an attack on the above-named villages, and are said to have slaughtered the old men, women, and children, all the fighting men having withdrawn on their approach and joined the Talori people in the stronghold they had prepared at a place called Kaf Room on the Antoch Mountain.

The Vali is then said to have called on the Kurds of the Bekiran and Rushkotan tribes, as well as the Kurds of Khiyan and Tchokoor, to attack the Talori stronghold, where, according to "Mourad's" account, over 1,900 Armenian fighting men were assembled. The Kurds were badly defeated in a first attack, and the Vali then telegraphed to Constantinople reporting a general Armenian revolt, and asking for reinforcements. Soldiers of the regular army, clad in Kurdish dress, are said to have taken part with the Kurds in a further attack on the Armenians, and a secondary stronghold of the latter, commanded by a leader named Kevork, is said to have fallen into their hands, hundreds of men, women, and children being indiscriminately slaughtered, and only two escaping.

Negotiations for surrender had been begun between the Vali and "Mourad," but a portion of his band who laid down their arms were at once massacred by the Kurds, and the remainder continued to resist at the date of "Mourad's" writing, namely, the 9th September. The Sassoon and Beleki Kurds, as opposed to the other tribes mentioned, had befriended the Armenians, furnishing them with provisions, and affording a refuge to such of the non-combatants as escaped. In all, seventeen villages are said to have been sacked and destroyed.

Doubts still exist here as to the ultimate fate of "Mourad" and the main Armenian force, but it is supposed that they surrendered to Zeki Pasha, and no fighting between them and the regular troops has been reported. However that may be, in the letter attributed to "Mourad" the writer claims that at least they have so far succeeded in their desperate game that the civilized world cannot fail to be horror-struck at the barbarities committed in crushing the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 272.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 29, 1894, 12·45 P.M.*

DETAILS of events in Bitlis Vilayet have reached me to-day in a despatch from Vice-Consul Hallward. There seems to be no doubt that great numbers of Armenians, who had surrendered without offering any resistance, were massacred by the soldiers collected by the Vali of Bitlis on the pretext of suppressing troubles between them and the Kurds. These soldiers also destroyed twenty-five Armenian villages, while the flocks and herds were carried off by the Kurds.

I propose, if your Lordship approves, to send a Memorandum direct to the Sultan, and to urge His Imperial Majesty to send a trustworthy agent to investigate on the spot, as the Grand Vizier gave very unsatisfactory replies to the last representations I made.

No. 273.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 337.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 482 of the 17th instant, reporting the explanations furnished by you to the Porte in reply to complaints made by the

Turkish local authorities against Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward's proceedings during his visit to Moush.

I approve your Excellency's message to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 274.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 338.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 29, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 472 of the 15th instant, forwarding copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo, in which instances are given of a renewed persecution of Armenians by the Turkish authorities in that vilayet.

I have to request your Excellency to bring this information to the knowledge of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 275.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 30, 1894.*

I APPROVE the course which your Excellency proposes to take, as reported in your telegram No. 184 of yesterday, in view of the details you have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward of proceedings of the Turkish authorities in the Bitlis Vilayet.

No. 276.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 340.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 31, 1894.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Archbishop of Canterbury a copy of Mr. Devey's Memorandum, inclosed in your despatch No. 397 of the 1st ultimo, on the condition of the Nestorian Christians in the Hekkiari district, and the grievances of the Patriarch Mar Shimun.

I inclose a copy of a letter from His Grace commenting on Mr. Devey's report, and giving further information.* You will observe that the Archbishop concurs in the recommendation that Mar Shimun should have some intermediary at Constantinople.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency may endeavour to arrange that the Patriarch may have some means of direct communication with the Sultan's Ministers in the manner proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 277.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 2, 1894, 10·30 A.M.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I sent yesterday, through the Sultan's Chief Secretary, a Memorandum to his Imperial Majesty on the massacre of Armenians in the Bitlis Vilayet, giving the substance of Vice-Consul Hallward's reports, and urging that an independent inquiry should be at once instituted, and that the officials responsible for the massacre should be severely punished if the reports prove true.

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* No. 264.

No. 278.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 3, 1894, 10·30 P.M.*

IN reply to my Memorandum respecting the massacre of Armenians in the Vilayet of Bitlis, I have received a long message from the Sultan, in the course of which His Majesty says "he has read with horror and sorrow the account which your Excellency has given him. His Majesty had had no knowledge of these facts, and when he read the report yesterday morning he immediately instructed the Minister of the Interior to make inquiries, and cause a telegram to be sent to the Commandant of the 4th Corps d'Armée, Zeki Pasha, instructing him to report at once, and action will be taken accordingly if the result of His Majesty's inquiries proves the accuracy of your Excellency's information; and the Vali of Bitlis would be held responsible if he had really collected the Kurds in the manner your Excellency states."

The rest of the message contained a defence of the general treatment of the Armenians in the Turkish Empire, and referred to their seditious conduct, and the encouragement it receives in England.

No. 279.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 491.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1894.*

WITH reference to the arrest of the Protestant preacher, Levonian, mentioned by Mr. Graves in his despatch of the 4th instant, copy of which is inclosed, I have the honour to report that I caused a *pro-memorid* on the case to be presented to the Grand Vizier, pointing out that the only reason for his arrest seemed to be his likeness to the Armenian revolutionary agent, Damadian. His Highness stated that Damadian was in prison at Moush, and that there must have been some other reason for the arrest of Levonian, into which he would inquire. It has since been ascertained that Levonian was arrested at Van on the supposition that he had been engaged in an alleged seditious conspiracy at the Medical School at Constantinople, evidently under the mistaken idea that he was Damadian. He declared that he had never been out of Kurdistan, and the local authorities eventually established by his papers that his statement was correct. In the meantime his photograph had been sent to Constantinople, and telegraphic instructions were issued to bring him at once to the capital. On his arrival he was imprisoned, but the Ministries of Police and Justice were finally forced to admit that his story was correct and that he had never been seen in Constantinople. He is now at liberty living on the charity of some Protestant missionaries and without means to return to his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 279.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 4, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that the Protestant preacher Hofsep Levonian, whose arrest was alluded to in the inclosure to my despatch of the 6th September, has been sent under escort to Constantinople viâ Erzeroum.

I am informed that Levonian reached Erzeroum about three days ago, and is to continue his journey to Constantinople to-day. He believes that his arrest is due solely to the remarkable likeness he bears to the well-known agitator Damadian, whose arrest at Moush was reported in my despatch of the 28th June, 1893. Damadian was removed to Constantinople some months ago, but is said to have effected his escape at the time of the earthquake.

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If it is true that Levonian has been mistaken for Damadian, and that there is no other charge against him, it seems unreasonable to remove him from Van, where his identity could be established by scores of witnesses, and where bail has been offered for his appearance when wanted to Constantinople, where he is entirely unknown and may become the victim of a judicial error.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 279.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, September 25, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, in which I mentioned that a certain Hofsep Levonian, a Protestant preacher, has been imprisoned here, I have the honour to report that two days ago this person was sent under police escort on the road to Constantinople viâ Erzeroum.

The only reason that I can learn for this measure is that he is said to resemble a certain Armenian brigand, whom the police have been in search of for some time, and he is being sent to Constantinople to have his identity proved, but why he cannot be identified here, or what other reason there may be for this measure, I am unable to say.

I may mention that an American missionary here who knows him well, and who is confident in his innocence of any crime or political offence, spoke to the Vali about him, and tried to find out exactly of what he is accused or suspected, but he failed to obtain any definite answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. HALLWARD.

No. 280.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 492.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1894.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph of Mr. Graves' despatch of the 22nd May, forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 286 of the 8th June, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from him, reporting the dismissal of Kiazim Bey, the Chief of the Erzeroum Police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, September 26, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Chief of the Erzeroum Police, Kiazim Bey, to whose intrigues and corrupt practices I have frequently had occasion to refer in my despatches to your Excellency, has been dismissed from his post.

General satisfaction is expressed here at this dismissal, all the more so because it is understood that Kiazim Bey's predecessor, Servet Bey, who filled the same post with much greater credit for some time, has been recommended for reappointment as Chief of Police in his place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 281.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 493. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 26, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 467 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a further despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, respecting the recent order as to the attendance of Armenian children at foreign schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 281.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, October 22, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch, of the 5th instant, on the subject of the Government order concerning the attendance of Armenian children at foreign schools, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the remarks of a gentleman connected with the only foreign scholastic establishment in this vilayet, viz., the American College at Cesarea, and who has a thorough knowledge of the country.

I have only to add that the same view is held by several other persons, whose opinion I have obtained.

My correspondent's allusion to the irregularities in connection with the collection of tithes, is merely a confirmation of the continuance of a long existing and well-known cause of discontent among Christians and Mussulmans alike.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 281.

Private Letter addressed to Consul Cumberbatch from Cesarea, October 15, 1894.

(Extract.)

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ANY attempt at a general execution of the order (relating to the attendance of Armenian children at foreign schools) would cripple our schools seriously, and I am not very hopeful that it will exert a very quieting effect upon a population already discontented.

Two or three years ago some of them thought their burdens greater than they could bear; I am afraid they are in a fair way to become convinced of their mistake.

My journey to Gémérek and vicinity has made me heartsick by reason of the extortion and oppression of their system of "taking the tithes." I thought then that it was impossible to invent a method that could put the people more completely into the clutches of the extortioner, but I believe the school order surpasses it in opportunity.

Between the two there is but a small chance that peace and prosperity can return to the land. It seems to me to be literally true that the common people are having the life crushed out of them.

The worst of it is, there seems to be neither power nor disposition to make the effort necessary for a change for the better.

Like a man overcome by sea-sickness they know or care very little what is to become of them.

From appearances I am afraid that the days of political black-mailing have only just begun. Unless I am mistaken the worst of this is yet before us.

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No. 282.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 495.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the adoption by the Turkish authorities of energetic measures against the Kurdish marauders in the district south-east of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 282.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 20, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the initiative of the Mushir, Zeki Pasha, a serious effort is at last being made to re-establish security in the districts lying to the south-east of Erzeroum, on the frontier of the Bitlis Vilayet. The operations are in the hands of Emin Bey, the Commander of the Erzeroum Gendarmerie, and of Ali Bey, a Colonel attached to the Hamidiyé Cavalry, and regular troops have been furnished by Zeki Pasha to assist the gendarmerie in restoring order.

Emin Bey left Erzeroum about a month ago with 300 cavalry and mounted gendarmes, to whom a company of infantry were subsequently added. He proceeded first to Elmali Déré, a valley lying between the Passin Caza of Erzeroum and the Melazgerd Caza of Bitlis, the inhabitants of which are Kurds of the Berezanli tribe, and have long been notorious for their raids upon the neighbouring districts. Some resistance was offered at first, but after a Chief called Abdullah had been killed with four of his men, in a skirmish with the troops, the rest made their submission. Fourteen prisoners were sent to Erzeroum, and 1,500 sheep and 570 oxen, besides other stolen property, were recovered. Similar operations were successfully conducted against the Hassananli tribe in Melazgerd, whose depredations have ruined the Cazas of Boulanik and Khinis. A still larger number of stolen sheep and cattle were recovered from this tribe, and fourteen Chiefs and about eighty men have been brought as prisoners to Erzeroum, where the Chiefs, being all Hamidiyé officers, have been lodged in one of the barracks, while the men are confined in the gaol.

Notice has been given that the original owners of the recaptured plunder must present themselves at the capitals of their respective cazas, for the purpose of establishing their claims—a somewhat difficult matter in the case of cattle and sheep raided months or even years ago by the Kurds, who have been careful to deface or alter any marks whereby they might be identified.

I learn that Emin and Ali Beys are now in the Caza of Khinis, which has suffered greatly of late years from Kurdish raids, and where it is to be hoped that they may be equally successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 283.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 499.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October 30, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 476 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting on the massacre of Armenians at Talori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Moush, October 9, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I left Van on the 26th ultimo, and arrived here on the 30th ultimo. I am staying at the Armenian Catholic Bishop's house. The Bishop himself is away, but I have been hospitably received and entertained by his representative.

At Tadvan, a village on the west shore of the lake, I was met by an officer with zaptiehs, who came with a cordial message from the Vali to escort me to Bitlis. I thanked him, and informed him that Moush was my immediate destination, but that I hoped to visit Bitlis afterwards. After some attempt to dissuade me from going to Moush, he escorted me part of the way, and then returned to Bitlis.

On the way here, and after my arrival, I heard enough to convince me that events had occurred in this region far more serious than anything I had supposed from the vague rumours current in Van, but I soon found that it would be impossible to learn the truth in detail in this town, as all the Christian inhabitants were afraid to approach me, and there are no resident foreigners. I attempted to see the representative of the Armenian Orthodox Bishop (the latter has been in prison at Bitlis for the last two years), but he sent an urgent message begging me not to come near him. I have heard indirectly that many Armenians would be only too glad to see me, and give me all the information they can, but they are afraid of the Government, and I am bound to say their fears are justified by experience. Last year Mr. Lynch, an English traveller, changed some money at an Armenian's shop here, and after his departure the Armenian was thrown into prison here, and subsequently sent to Bitlis, where he was released after some months on payment of a gratuity to the Vali.

I therefore determined to proceed to the district in question, and endeavour to learn the truth on the spot, and I informed the Mutessarif Jelal-ed-din Bey that after visiting the Chanli Monastir, a large and famous Armenian monastery about 20 miles north-west of this, I wished, on my return, to proceed to Bitlis by way of the three villages Semal, Shinik, and Ghelfi Guzan and the Talori district. The three villages are in the Moush Sandjak, and he promised to give me an escort to them, but the Talori district being in the Chinj Sandjak, and, therefore, not in his jurisdiction, he said there might be a sanitary cordon, as there was cholera in Moush, and cordons had been placed at different points of the boundaries of the Moush Sandjak, at which ten days' quarantine was imposed on all travellers to other districts. However, I said I would take my chance of that, as I was pretty sure that there was no cordon in that part. There were thirty-two deaths from cholera in the twenty-four hours preceding my arrival, but it has since diminished. The cholera was brought from Erzinjian by the soldiers, and by them communicated to the population of the town, to which it is now entirely confined.

I went to Chanli Monastir on the 2nd instant, but could learn little, as I found that a police officer had taken up his quarters there, and that six of the monks had been lately arrested, and were in prison in Moush. Two remained, but were afraid to tell me anything.

On my return the next day I received a message from the Governor that he wished to see me. When I went he was visibly embarrassed, and I waited some time to see what he had to say. At last I remarked that I wanted to start next day for Bitlis, as I had already told him. He then said he had received an official communication from the Military Commmandant to the effect that as there was still a battalion of soldiers at Semal, it was desirable to preserve them from infection, and, therefore, a sanitary cordon must be placed between the town and that village. I then offered to go to Talori by another road, but he said that I could not go there without passing the cordon at Semal, and that he must telegraph to the Mutessarif of Chinj to inquire whether there was not a cordon there also. In fact, he gave me clearly to understand that he did not mean to let me go by that road at all, and I have no doubt that he had instructions from the Vali to that effect.

The next day he sent a police officer with a written communication, stating that the whole sandjak was entirely surrounded with sanitary cordons, and that an extra cordon had been placed on the Semal and Talori side, and asking which way I intended to go; the officer said the Mutessarif was anxious to have an answer in writing at once. I therefore wrote thanking him for his information, and saying that

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I had not yet decided which way to go, and must take time to consider the question. Considering that the cholera originated with the soldiers, and that, moreover, the battalion at Semal is in communication with the authorities at Moush, the plea of wishing to preserve them from infection is lamentably weak.

I had previously explained to the Mutessarif and also to Edhem Pasha, the Military Commandant, the object of my visit, and asked them both whether they could give me any account of the causes which led to the sending of troops to the Talori district. They both stated rather vaguely that the original cause of trouble was a disturbance between the Armenians and Kurds. I did not expect to get much information from either of them, but thought they might possibly offer some explanation of the severe measures adopted against the Armenians, but I failed to elicit anything of the sort from either of them, in fact they did not attempt to attach any special blame to the Armenians. What I chiefly gathered from their tone and conduct was that they were both extremely anxious to hush up the whole affair.

My information is, therefore, necessarily of a meagre character, and I have had some difficulty in collecting any definite facts. The following is the best account I can give of the matter, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of all the details.

Three or four hours' journey to the south of this in a mountainous country are the three villages I have mentioned above, and four or five hours further to the south is a group of some twenty-five villages, which goes by the name of Talori, and borders on the Sassoun district. These three villages (Semal, Shinik, and Ghelli Guzan) and Talori are purely Armenian, while Sassoun is chiefly Kurdish. The Armenians and their Kurdish neighbours live generally on fairly good terms, the former given the latter certain subsidies on condition of help and protection in case of need. Things appeared to have gone fairly well with them till three or four years ago, when the tribal Kurds, Khiandi, Badikanli, Bekiranli, and others who infest that district in summer, took to robbing and occasionally murdering the Armenian villagers, since when matters have been gradually getting worse.

The villages of Semal, Shinik, and Ghelli Guzan appear to have enjoyed greater tranquillity, and to have been little troubled either by Kurdish or Government exactions, living in patriarchal style—forty, fifty, or even more in a house—and being particularly rich in sheep and cattle.

Last year the Vali of Bitlis summoned some of the Chief men from these villages on some pretext to Bitlis, but they did not appear, his Excellency Hassan Tahsin Pasha being notorious for his skill in exploiting the "Armenian question." There is, I believe, scarcely a single well-to-do Armenian in Bitlis or Moush who has not been either imprisoned or threatened with imprisonment on charges of sedition with a view to the extortion of money. The individuals in question, fearing similar treatment, preferred to remain at home. This appears to have exasperated his Excellency, and, taking advantage of certain disturbances that occurred last year between the Kurds and Armenians, he in the middle of June last sent a battalion of soldiers to that district, nominally to protect the Armenians. At the same time, a certain Kurdish Sheikh, Mehemet by name, was brought to Mush from the Diarbekir region, and commissioned to collect large numbers of tribal Kurds, who accordingly assembled in July last in enormous numbers in the Talori district.

Meantime the battalion of soldiers had lived on peaceable terms with the villagers for some six weeks, when, about the beginning of August, some Bekiranli Kurds from Diarbekir stole some cattle from one of the villages, and on the Armenians attempting to recover them a slight affray ensued, in which two or three were killed and wounded on either side. Thereupon the Kurds came to Moush to complain to the Government, saying that all the Armenians were up in arms, and that there were foreigners among them instigating them to revolt. The Commander of the troops is said to have reported to the same effect.

The Vali then demanded large reinforcements of troops, which were accordingly sent from Erzinjian, Kharput, Diarbekir, Erzeroum, and Van. When they appeared on the scene the Armenians surrendered to them on promise of protection against the Kurds. The troops then proceeded to massacre those who had surrendered and everybody else they could lay hands on—men, women, and children. They plundered all the property they could carry off, and then burnt the houses. The work of massacre and pillage is said to have continued for several days, and some twenty-five villages were almost entirely destroyed. The Kurds drove off enormous quantities of sheep and cattle, but did not assist in the massacre to any great extent. They are said to have carried off a number of girls, and many others were raped by the soldiers. Churches were sacked and burnt, and priests' robes and church ornaments were publicly sold in

the market of Moush. I have heard that shocking atrocities were committed, such as burying men alive, blowing them up with gunpowder, &c. A woman from Talori told me that thirty men had been buried alive by soldiers, and I have heard the same thing repeated in different quarters, but I am not in a position to sift the truth of such stories.

Nor is it possible for me to estimate the loss of life, but from all I have heard I suppose there must have been 1,000 or more killed. I saw one old man who had been wandering for about three weeks in the mountains with a small boy, and had at length taken refuge in a monastery. He was from the village of Ghelli Guzan, and was a rich man, there being forty persons in his house. He did not know for certain what had become of any of them except the boy, but he supposed most of them must have been killed. In another case I heard of six escaped out of a household of fifty. There are a few women and children in a destitute state in the town, and a few in some of the villages in the plain, and some have taken refuge with the Kurds of Sassoun, others are wandering about the mountains, as the Armenians about here are afraid to receive them in their houses. I am, therefore, reluctant to give any figures as I have so little to go on except hearsay. The old man I mentioned said he supposed about 4,000 must have been killed in twelve villages that he knew; if this be correct the total might be as much as 8,000, but without visiting the villages and estimating the number of survivors, it is obviously impossible to make even a conjecture at the number of lives lost. About twenty of the villagers are in prison here and I hear are suffering greatly from hunger. One of the principal Sassoun Kurds, Khishman Aga, is also in prison for befriending the Armenians.

The Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée arrived from Erzinjian at the beginning of September, and after remaining ten days in the mountains returned. The Vali came to Moush the day before his arrival, but on hearing of his approach at once departed and did not see him.

The principal responsibility for the whole affair is attributed to the Vali of Bitlis, and rightly, as far as I can judge. A certain Staff Colonel, Ismail Bey, was in command of the troops I believe, and a Major named Salih, of the Moush battalion, is said to have taken a prominent part in the massacre. The present Mutessarif of Moush only arrived here in the middle of August, and cannot, therefore, be considered to share the Vali's responsibility; how far his predecessor was to blame in the matter I cannot say.

Had it not been for the attitude of the authorities in refusing to allow me to visit the district and preventing me as far as possible from having any communication with the population here or elsewhere by putting police to watch this house and to follow me wherever I go, I might have supposed there was some exaggeration in the accounts I have heard. But their object, evidently, is to stave off any close inquiry into the matter till winter, when all the mountainous districts will be under snow, and communication with the outside world extremely difficult; by the spring they, no doubt, calculate the whole affair will have blown over. It is said that the authorities are preparing a document to be signed by the principal inhabitants declaring that nothing has occurred to disturb the tranquillity of the province, or something to that effect; this will, doubtless, be forwarded to Constantinople, and will, I presume, appear in due course in the newspapers.

There is urgent need of immediate help being given to the unfortunate survivors of this terrible affair, as they must needs suffer cruelly if left houseless and penniless to face the rigorous winter of this region. As for the Christians in general, their outlook will be gloomy indeed, unless some effective measures are adopted for the future protection of their lives and property. The Kurds and tithe-farmers plunder them with impunity; they have no redress, and the whole Administration is unjust, corrupt, and inefficient to the last degree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

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No. 284.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 500.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 31, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo, reporting a visit of the Secretary of the United States' Legation at Constantinople to Aleppo and Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 284.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, October* 18, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Secretary of the Amer Legation at Constantinople, Mr. Riddel, has lately paid a visit to Aleppo and Ain and yesterday left for Alexandretta on his way back to Constantinople.

It has been reported to me that the object of his journey in these parts was due to a strong complaint which has been presented by the Turkish authorities to the said Legation against the American missionaries of Aintab, accusing them to be continually disseminating opinions detrimental to the authority of the Sultan among the Armenians of the said town.

It seems, however, that the inquiry made quietly on the spot by Mr. Riddel, proved that the charges brought against the American missionaries were groundless, and that even the Governor-General of Aleppo, his Excellency Hassan Pasha, has agreed upon this question with Mr. Riddel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 285.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 341.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 5, 1894.

I HAVE received Mr. Consul Graves' Report of the 10th October, forwarded in your Excellency's despatch No. 488 of the 24th ultimo, with regard to the case of the Narman prisoners incarcerated at Erzeroum since 1891, for the murder of three Turks.

I request your Excellency to bring this matter before the Grand Vizier if a favourable opportunity occurs, and to point out that it is a case which would give rise to most unfavourable comment if it were brought forward in the European press, and one in which an exercise of clemency would have a very salutary effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 286.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 353 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 7, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador to-day renewed his often-repeated complaints of the encouragement which his Excellency considers is given in this country to the malcontent Armenians.

Rustem Pasha did not, he said, mean to impute to Her Majesty's Government any desire to give support to rebellious subjects of the Sultan, but he must point out that the fact of this Office corresponding with the Armenian Committees led to the belief amongst the Armenians in Turkey that the agitators received official countenance.

I remarked that I was somewhat surprised at these reiterated complaints, as his Excellency was well aware that Her Majesty's Government had carefully avoided taking any action which could have the appearance of want of friendliness to the Sultan, or would give colour to the supposition that they gave encouragement to disloyal subjects of His Imperial Majesty.

Your Excellency, I said, had brought to the knowledge of the Porte reports which had reached you from trustworthy sources of cruelties inflicted on peaceable Armenians, and it was obviously in the interest of the Sultan that His Imperial Majesty should not be left in ignorance of these reports.

I went on to say that I had just received a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Van, giving the result of his inquiries respecting the alleged massacre of Armenians in the Bitlis district by the Turkish soldiery.

Your Excellency had communicated it to the Sultan, who had expressed to you his horror at the account, and had ordered an immediate inquiry. I hoped that it might turn out that the account was exaggerated, but if only a tithe of it were true there was enough, when it became known in this country, to cause a burst of indignation.

The danger to the Turkish Government did not, I observed, arise from agitators, but from corrupt and vicious administration. The Sultan was, I entirely believed, sincerely desirous that the Armenians, in common with His Imperial Majesty's other subjects, should be justly treated, but, unfortunately, the provincial authorities, in not a few cases, acted in a contrary spirit, and the result was to stimulate the disaffection which it was the object of the agitators against the Sultan's Government to foment.

As to the Committees in this country, I assured his Excellency that he was quite mistaken if he supposed that any official encouragement had been given to them. On the contrary, great care had been taken not to do anything which would produce such an impression.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 287.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 8, 1894, 6·30 P.M.

THE Sultan sent to-day a further message through Mr. Block, in which, while complaining of the encouragement given to the Armenians by Mr. Hallward's proceedings, His Majesty stated that he had received from Zeki Pasha and the Vali of Bitlis telegrams from which he promised to give extracts in a few days, when he would have received additional explanations.

The message stated that those telegrams contradicted the truth of Vice-Consul Hallward's reports.

No. 288.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 9, 1894, 3 P.M.

I CALLED on Said Pasha this morning, in consequence of my having received last night an unsigned paper from the Porte headed "Notice," which stated that at Moush and Bitlis the Armenians had been instigated by Vice-Consul Hallward to hold meetings and to sign an Address against the Imperial Government; and further, that it had been proved, after an inquiry held by the Imperial authorities, that Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward had gone so far as to urge the Armenians to rise against the Imperial Government.

I told Said Pasha that an immediate investigation would be required into such grave charges against an official of Her Majesty's Government, who would deserve immediate dismissal if they were true, and that I proposed at once to send the Military Attaché of this Embassy to hold an inquiry at Bitlis into the Vice-Consul's conduct, that the Vali must then prove or retract his accusations. Mr. Hallward could be

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ordered from Van to Bitlis to be present at the inquiry. I spoke with considerable warmth, and declined to remain and discuss the matter.

Artin Pasha was present at the interview, and he and Said Pasha protested that the document was an unofficial one, but I replied that such grave charges against an English official could not be treated as unofficial. In reply to an inquiry which I sent on receiving the Sultan's message of the 8th instant, Mr. Hallward telegraphed yesterday that neither he nor his Dragoman received an address from the Armenians, and that he refused to receive them.

I have little doubt that in consequence of my action the charges will be withdrawn, but I would beg your Lordship to support my language, and the proposed mission of Colonel Chermside should Rustem Pasha speak on the subject.

No. 289.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 9, 1894, 6·30 P.M.*

THIS afternoon Mr. Block was summoned to the Palace and was charged with a message from His Imperial Majesty to me, stating that according to a telegram received from the Vali of Bitlis, the evidence of loyal Armenians who had made declarations before the Public Prosecutor had confirmed the accusations already made by the Vali against Mr. Hallward of collecting the Armenians by night, and inducing them to sign an Address against the Government. The Vice-Consul, the Vali added, was still engaging in intrigues, and wandering about the country.

The Sultan protested against the action of the Vice-Consul, and said that the responsibility would rest with the Embassy if it continued. I propose, with your Lordship's approval, simply to reply that the charge of stirring up rebellion is so grave that it must be at once investigated, and that Colonel Chermside will proceed to Bitlis for the purpose.

The Colonel is quite ready to start, and will leave in a few days if the threat of his visiting the neighbourhood of the scene of the recent massacres is not sufficient to cause the withdrawal of the charges against the Vice-Consul. The Vali is simply trumping up false statements, supported by false witnesses, as a defence against the exposure of his misdeeds.

I have entire confidence in the discretion and truthfulness of Mr. Hallward, who has assured me that there is no foundation for the Vali's statements; moreover, I telegraphed to him at Moush on the 9th October, recommending him to be especially cautious.

He returned to Van on the 5th November.

No. 290.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 10, 1894, 6·45 P.M.*

SAID PASHA, who reported this morning to the Palace the communication I made to him yesterday, has admitted confidentially to Mr. Block that the Vali of Bitlis was to blame for the occurrences in his vilayet, and that serious events, of which he himself had not received full particulars, had occurred. His Excellency admitted that the troops had killed several hundreds of Armenians.

No. 291.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 10, 1894.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 189 of the 9th instant, relative to the charges of inciting the Armenians of Moush to rebellion against the Imperial authorities which have been brought by the Porte against Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward. I entirely approve your Excellency's action in the matter, and think that you should insist upon your proposal to send Colonel Chermside to investigate these accusations.

No. 292.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic) P. *Foreign Office, November 10, 1894.*

I QUITE approve the course suggested by your Excellency in your telegram No. 190 of yesterday with regard to the charges made by the Porte against Vice-Consul Hallward. It is, in my opinion, very desirable that Colonel Chermside should proceed to Bitlis without delay.

It is important to obtain more information respecting the reported massacre of Armenians, and the withdrawal of charges so circumstantially made can scarcely be accepted without investigation.

No. 293.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

No. 356.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 491 of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a report from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum with regard to the arrest of the Protestant preacher, Levonian, and stating that you had made a representation on the subject to the Grand Vizier.

I approve your Excellency's intervention on behalf of this person, whose case seems to have been one of great hardship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 294.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 507. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 4, 1894.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD'S despatch of the 9th ultimo, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 499 of the 30th ultimo, leaves little room to doubt the substantial accuracy of the reports contained in his telegrams from Moush as to the massacre of Armenians and the destruction of their villages in the Talori district.

I had kept the Grand Vizier informed of these reports, and had urged him to take steps for ascertaining the real state of affairs. At first he took my representations in good part, though without admitting the correctness of my information, but latterly he showed reluctance to discuss the matter, and objected to receive the unofficial Memoranda which I offered to leave with him, giving the substance of the intelligence that had reached me. There was reason to doubt whether this intelligence had ever been laid before the Sultan, and I therefore thought it advisable, when fuller details were supplied by Mr. Hallward's despatch, to communicate them directly to His Imperial Majesty.

Having obtained your Lordship's sanction, by telegraph, to this course, I drew up the Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed, and instructed Mr. Block to hand a Turkish translation of it to the Sultan's Chief Secretary for communication to His Majesty. This was done on the 1st instant.

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Yesterday morning Mr. Black was summoned to the Palace, and the Sultan's reply, of which a translation is inclosed, was read to him by a Secretary who had taken it down from His Imperial Majesty's dictation.

Your Lordship will observe that although Vice-Consul Hallward's reports are ascribed to Armenian misrepresentations, it is practically admitted that summary punishment was administered, and that the Imperial Government has stamped out the "robbers" in the Talori district.

There remains in doubt the question whether the Armenians had really risen in insurrection, and whether they offered an armed resistance to the troops. Mr. Hallward's version of the facts is confirmed by reports which have been received at the French Embassy from their Consular Agent at Diarbekir, and by letters which have been sent to M. Boyadjian, the Protestant Vekil, from the scene of the disturbances. The reference to Zeki Pasha, the Commandant of the 4th Army Corps, is not likely, I fear, to produce a reliable statement of the Vali's proceedings, but as he arrived at Talori after the massacres had taken place, and is said to have expressed the opinion that the disturbances which led to the troops being called out had been greatly exaggerated, it is possible that he may not altogether support the Vali's action. The steps, too, which, according to Mr. Grave's despatch No. 79, transmitted to your Lordship in my No. 495 of the 29th October, he is taking to restrain the Kurds, offers some ground for hoping that he does not consider the state of affairs as satisfactory.

My representations, if they do nothing more, will at any rate show that the proceedings of the provincial authorities are being watched, and that the truth of the reports they forward to Constantinople is liable to be questioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 291.

Memorandum.

THE British Ambassador has on several occasions unofficially brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte the substance of telegraphic messages sent from Moush by the British Vice-Consul at Van which contained accounts of the recent occurrences in the Bitlis Vilayet. The Vice-Consul intended to proceed from Moush to Bitlis, passing through the disturbed districts with a view of verifying the reports which had reached him, but he was prevented from doing so by the authorities on the ground that the roads were closed by sanitary cordons. He was, therefore, unable absolutely to test upon the spot the exactness of the details supplied to him, but the information he has now forwarded by despatch is derived either from eye-witnesses or from trustworthy sources, and is of so serious a nature that the Ambassador feels that he would be neglecting his duty towards the Sovereign to whom he is accredited if he failed to bring to the notice of the Sultan himself the facts which have come to his knowledge, and respectfully to urge His Imperial Majesty to send a trustworthy Agent, who will not be under the influence of the local authorities, to make a thorough investigation into the circumstances.

The following is a summary of the facts, as reported by the Vice-Consul:—

In the month of June last the Vali of Bitlis sent a battalion of soldiers to the Talori district nominally to prevent a recurrence of the disturbances which took place last year between the Kurds and Armenians. At the same time he caused a Kurdish Sheikh named Mehemet to come from the Diarbekir region to Moush, and commissioned him to collect a body of tribal Kurds, who accordingly assembled in great numbers in July last in the Talori district.

The soldiers lived peaceably with the villagers until the beginning of August, when some Behirani Kurds from Diarbekir stole some cattle from an Armenian village.

The villagers attempted to recover their property, and an affray took place in which two or three lives were lost. The Kurds then complained to the authorities, saying that all the Armenians were up in arms, and that there were foreigners among them instigating them to revolt. The Vali thereupon sent for large reinforcements of troops from different garrisons. When they appeared on the scene the Armenians surrendered to them on the promise that they would be protected against the Kurds, but in spite of this promise the troops massacred those who had surrendered and many others, including women and children. They plundered and burnt the villages, of which twenty-five were almost entirely destroyed. The Kurds drove off the sheep and cattle, and carried off

many women. The churches were sacked and burnt, and priests' robes and sacred ornaments were publicly sold in the streets of Moush.

Shocking atrocities are said to have been committed, and the number of killed is said to have reached several thousands.

Some of the destitute women and children escaped to Moush, some to the villages in the plain, and some are wandering about the mountains. Immediate help is urgently needed for the survivors of the massacre, who are reduced to the greatest poverty. Zeki Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée, did not arrive in the district from Erzinjan until after the massacre had taken place.

The Ambassador does not doubt that these facts will be disputed by the authorities, who are said to be already preparing documents denying that disturbances have taken place, but he trusts that His Imperial Majesty will not be satisfied with these denials proceeding from interested sources, but will cause a searching investigation to be made into the conduct of Hussein Takrin Pasha, the Vali of Bitlis, who is mainly responsible for the lamentable events that have occurred, of Staff-Colonel Ismail Bey, who commanded the troops, and of Major Salik, of the Moush battalion, who is said to have taken a prominent part in the massacre of the villagers.

The Ambassador believes that such an investigation would show that the statements made that the Armenians had risen in insurrection at the instigation of a revolutionary agent were untrue. Such disturbances as had occurred were caused by the attacks of the Kurds on the Armenians, and the resistance offered by the latter.

The Vali was to be blamed in the first instance for not taking proper measures to prevent those attacks, and his subsequent proceedings appear to have been inspired by a deliberate intention to break up the Armenian villages in the Talori district.

Inclosure 2 in No. 291

Reply of His Majesty the Sultan to preceding Memorandum.

HIS Majesty states that he is well aware of your Excellency's friendly disposition towards himself and the Empire, and he does not for a moment imagine that in bringing these matters to his notice your Excellency wishes to raise the Armenian question.

His Majesty has no knowledge whatever of the incidents related by Mr. Hallward, who has probably got his information from untrustworthy sources. Indeed, His Majesty received on the 2nd instant a telegram from the Vali of Bitlis to the effect that Mr. Hallward has arrived there, and that through his Dragoman he has secretly collected some Armenians suspected of sedition by night, and has asked them to prepare a "Mazbata," or Report against the Government, which they accordingly have given him, and that furthermore he has informed them that he has been commissioned by the British Government to inquire into their grievances.

His Majesty continues by stating that just as in other countries there are Nihilists, Socialists, and Anarchists, endeavouring to obtain from the Government concessions and privileges which it is impossible to grant them, and just in the same manner as steps have to be taken against them, so it is with the Armenians, who for their own purposes invent these stories against the Government, and finding that they receive encouragement from British officials, are emboldened to proceed to open acts of rebellion, which the Government is perfectly justified in suppressing by every means in its power.

His Majesty has received to-day another telegram from the Mutessarif of Dersim, stating that in the district of Pallo, at a village called Habab, the Armenians, who on a former occasion had addressed Her Majesty's Embassy, assembled secretly last Monday and prepared a paper (probably a programme of revolution), and opened a subscription with the object of collecting money for soldiers in the cause, who were to be paid 10 piastres a-head. The Patriarchate is reported to be sending instructions to the Armenians at Diarbekir, and they meet in church once a-week to consider the measures they are to take in accordance therewith. It is reported, also, that their are seven foreigners travelling about the provinces, some of them English, with a view of intriguing amongst the Armenians.

His Majesty says that your Excellency will remember that the Bulgarians concocted the same stories against the Government, and proceeded just as the Armenians do, and that the British Government extended a certain protection to the Bulgarians, who have now been formed into a separate province. This cannot possibly, however, happen in the case of the Armenians. The Armenian population is spread over a large extent of country, and in no place are they in a majority. Their expectations, therefore, can

never be realized, and all the exaggerated stories of oppression and persecution, got up with the object of exciting European sympathy to enable them to obtain an impossible end, should not be relied upon. Unfortunately, a great deal of false information is given to British newspapers, which accept the facts related as true, and convey a false impression to their readers. His Majesty counts upon your Excellency's assistance to counteract this impression, and trusts that you will endeavour to prevent the publication of false intelligence in the British press.

Naturally the Ottoman Government was bound to take strong measures to put down sedition, and when people were found with arms in their hands resisting the authorities, it was only natural that the Government should mete out to them summary punishment. Only a short time ago, in Italy, the Italians put down disorder with a strong hand. England herself had, in India, had resort to the strongest measures to stamp out rebellion, and even in Egypt England had put down disorder with a high hand.

His Imperial Majesty treated the Armenians with justice and moderation, and, as long as they behaved properly, all toleration would be shown to them, but he had given orders that when they took to revolt or to brigandage the authorities were to deal with them as they dealt with the authorities—otherwise the Imperial authorities were instructed to treat them with fairness and justice.

His Majesty had read the account which your Excellency had given him with horror and sorrow. His Majesty had had no knowledge of these facts, and yesterday morning, when he read the Report, he immediately instructed the Minister of the Interior to make inquiries, and cause a telegram to be sent to Zeki Pasha, Commandant of the 4th Corps d'Armée, instructing him to report at once, and, if the result of His Majesty's inquiries proves the accuracy of your Excellency's information, action will be taken accordingly, and if the Vali of Bitlis had really collected the Kurds in the manner your Excellency states he would be held responsible.

Returning to the question of the footing of equality on which His Majesty placed his Armenian subjects, the Sultan drew attention to the fact that after the recent earthquakes relief and money was given to Armenians and Armenian institutions in the same manner as to others. Armenians rose to the highest posts in the Administration, and, in fact, had more than their share of His Imperial Majesty's favour in this respect, taking into consideration their numbers and their status in the country.

His Majesty had lately had statistics drawn up, and he found in his Civil List Department that as many as sixty to seventy Armenians were employed, and the head of the Civil List was Michail Pasha Portoeal, an Armenian. Thus, he repeated, they had more than their share of His Imperial Majesty's favour, and there was no *parti pris* with regard to them in His Majesty's mind. It was a wrong impression that prevailed in England with regard to the Armenians, and it was not true that they were oppressed. From time immemorial they have had perfect liberty and freedom with regard to their churches, their schools, and their language; all reports to the contrary were from Armenian sources, and unfortunately they obtained credence in England, and the Sultan concluded by saying he trusted the Ambassador would make England understand the truth of the case, and that they are wrong in believing that the Armenians are persecuted, and he counted on the Ambassador's support to remove the false impression that existed with regard to them.

His Majesty touched on one more point. He notices that Mr. Halliward states that the authorities are preparing documents to screen them. His Majesty could not believe this; in fact, he had already received documents on the part of the people thanking the Imperial Government for having stamped out these robbers in that part of the country.

No. 295.

Mr. Hagopian to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 15.)

25, *Chesilton Road, Fulham, London,*
November 15, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a letter received in England on the 13th instant from Bitlis, Armenia, dated the 9th October last, and communicated to me yesterday, with the hope that I would bring it before your Lordship's immediate notice, which I now beg to do on behalf of my Armenian fellow-countrymen, and particularly on behalf of the massacred Armenian martyrs.

As to the truth of the details given in the letter, I have no reason, unfortunately, to doubt their authenticity. They will be borne out by the fuller and, perhaps, more circumstantial official Reports which your Lordship has or will soon receive from Her Majesty's Consular Agents in Armenia.

The events reported are a re-enactment of the Bulgarian atrocities, repeated with all their most horrible and sickening details of fiendish lust and atrocious cruelty on unarmed Christians, defenceless women, and innocent children, deliberately planned and ruthlessly executed under orders received from head-quarters at Constantinople.

Considering the friendly relations subsisting between the Sublime Porte and Great Britain and the other Great Powers of Europe, which His Majesty the Sultan professedly desires to consolidate and affirm, considering the lessons of the calamitous events following upon the Bulgarian atrocities in 1876, the Berlin Treaty, the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878, and the continuous attention which the British Foreign Office, we were given to understand, gave to Armenian grievances and Armenian reforms, it appears incredible that such unspeakable horrors as those detailed in this letter could be perpetrated without responsibility of any kind attaching to the Power by whose orders and through whose officials and Agents they are executed.

I, therefore, respectfully submit that inasmuch as the policy of the Porte has been more and more anti-Armenian since 1880, and our liberties and privileges have been, one by one, tampered with and destroyed; that my countrymen have been cruelly persecuted, imprisoned, tortured, and now outraged and massacred in thousands for being Christians and Armenians, for desiring to live as Armenians, and as human beings with adequate protection of life, property, and honour under the hopes held out to them in Treaties, Conventions, and Imperial Charters, the time has come to abolish, *in toto*, the existing Administration in Armenia and to replace it by another régime, approved by Great Britain and the other Signatory Powers to the Treaty of Berlin, and worked under their immediate supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. HAGOPIAN,
Chairman of the Armenian Patriotic Association.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Letter from Bitlis, dated October 9, 1894.

YOU have queried as to soldiers being at Moush and so bringing cholera. Prudence hints brevity and an indirect route. Our chief magnate seems like another Nero. Last year great things were going on in the mountains south of Moush. Though only a very few nationalists seem to have been there, a battle took place as in their self-defence. The magnate got his medal from Constantinople as having wiped out a big rebellion. This year a few more nationalists, perhaps ten to fifteen, were said to be there. The leading Sheikh was forced to set the ball rolling to escape a trap for himself. Kurds made a dash and carried off oxen of Armenians; the latter find their oxen, one just killed, and beg the Kurds to give them the live ones; this not being done, a fight ensues, in which two Kurds are killed and three wounded. The Kurds at once carry their dead down to Moush and throw them down before the Government, saying Armenian soldiers have overrun land, killing and plundering them, &c. This furnished the desired pretext for massing troops from far and near, cholera or no cholera. The Erzingan (?) Pasha of soldiers made a desperate race on, the marshal coming a little later. The Pasha is said to have hung from his breast, after reading it to his soldiers, an Order from Constantinople to cut the Armenians up, root and branch, adjuring them to do so if they loved their King and Government. Nearly all these things are related here and there by the soldiers who participated in the horrible carnage, some of them weeping, claiming that the Kurds did more, and declaring that what they did was to obey orders. Others have said that a hundred fell to each of them to dispose of. No compassion was shown to age or sex even by the regular soldiery, not even when their victims fell suppliant at their feet. Six to ten thousand met such a fate as even the darkest ages of darkened Africa have hardly witnessed, for there women and tender babes might have at least the chance of a life of slavery, while here, womanhood and innocency were but a mockery before the cruel lust that ended its debauch by stabbing to death with the bayonet, while tender babes were impaled with the same weapon on their dead mothers' breasts, or perhaps seized by the hair to have the head lopped off with the sword. In one place 300 or 400 women, after

being forced to serve the vile purposes of a merciless soldiery, were hacked to pieces by swords and bayonet in a valley below. In another place some 200 weeping and wailing begged for compassion, falling at the Commander's feet, but the blood-thirsty wretch, after ordering their violation, directed the soldiers to dispatch them in a similar way. In another place some sixty young brides and more attractive girls were crowded into a church, and after violation were slaughtered, and human gore was seen flowing from the church door. In another place a large company, under the lead of their priest, fell down before them begging compassion, averring that they had nothing to do with the culprits (?), but all to no purpose; all were killed. In another place propositions were made to several of the more attractive women to change their faith, in which case their lives might be spared. "Why should we deny Christ?" they say "We are no more than these," pointing to the mangled forms of their husbands and brothers before them. "Kill us too," and they did. Great effort was made to save one, the beauty, but three or four quarrelled over her, and she sank down like her sisters. But why prolong the sickening tale? There must be a God in Heaven who will do right in all these matters, or some of us would lose faith. One or more Consuls have been ordered that way to investigate. If Christians, instead of Turks, had reported these things in the city of Bitlis and the region where I have been touring the case would be different, but now we are compelled to believe most of it.

Now the magnate is having papers circulated and trying to compel Christians to sign them, expressing satisfaction that justice has been dealt out to rebels, and thanking the King and the magnate himself. Christians here in Bitlis do not take, though it is said that in the outlying districts some have signed. It has not yet been offered to the Protestants, and as yet Protestants have not been thrust into chains nor blackmailed very much, though lately things are beginning to look that way.

Another letter says:—

The manner even as reported by regular soldiers themselves, some of whom admit having disposed of 100 persons, is most fiendish. Rape, followed by the bayonet. Twenty to thirty villages wholly destroyed; some people burned with kerosine in their own houses.

No. 296.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 15, 1894, 6 P.M.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL HALLWARD telegraphs from Van that many Armenians of Bitlis have sent a telegram to the Grand Vizier and other Heads of Departments in Constantinople, accusing the Governor-General of that vilayet of extortion, and asking for an inquiry.

Mr. Hallward adds that the number of those who escaped from Sassoon is larger than was supposed, as the fugitives had been much scattered.

No. 297.

Rustem Pasha to Foreign Office.—(Received November 16.)

Cher Sir Thomas, *Ambassade de Turquie, Londres, le 16 Novembre, 1894.*

DES télégrammes que j'ai reçus ce matin de Constantinople m'apportent quelques informations sur les incidents qui ont dernièrement eu lieu dans le district de Sassoun.

Je vous transmets ci-inclus ces informations et je vous serais reconnaissant si vous vouliez bien les placer sous les yeux de Lord Kimberley.

Il me paraît en résulter que les habitants de certains villages ont été victimes de déprédations commises à la fois par des Kurdes et des Arméniens révoltés, et que les troupes n'ont été employées que pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et la protection des populations.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RUSTEM.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Telegraphic Information received from Constantinople.

Constantinople, le 16 Novembre, 1894.

DES brigands Arméniens munis d'armes de provenance étrangère se sont réunis à une tribu Kurde insurgée pour commettre des méfaits, et ils ont brûlé et dévasté plusieurs villages Musulmans. Pour donner une idée de la férocité de ces bandes Arméniennes, on rapporte que, entre autres crimes odieux, elles ont brûlé vif un notable Musulman.

Des troupes régulières ont été envoyées sur les lieux pour mettre les habitants paisibles à l'abri de toutes ces déprédations. Les troupes Ottomanes ont non seulement protégé et respecté la partie soumise de la population, ainsi que les femmes et les enfants, mais elles ont rétabli l'ordre et la tranquillité à la satisfaction générale.

Il n'est pas exact que les Kurdes se soient emparés des meubles, effets, et bestiaux des Arméniens fugitifs. Ce sont ces derniers qui les ont emportés dans les montagnes avant de se mettre en révolte, et il les ont confiés à la garde de leurs acolytes Kurdes. Les femmes Arméniennes actuellement chez les Kurdes appartiennent aux familles des brigands et se sont rendues de leur propre gré auprès des insurgés Kurdes avec leurs maris. En ce qui regarde les villages Arméniens qui auraient été détruits, ce sont les Arméniens qui ont tout emporté de leurs propres villages avant de se livrer au brigandage.

No. 298.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 16, 1894, midnight.*

ON the 11th instant I sent the Porte a written communication, as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 518 of the 15th instant, informing the Ottoman Government that Colonel Chermside would proceed at once to Bitlis to inquire into the charges which have been made against Mr. Hallward, and requesting that the usual facilities might be given for his journey, the date of his departure being fixed for the 14th. On the 13th instant, and again this morning, Saïd Pasha called on me, and urged in the name of the Sultan the abandonment of Colonel Chermside's mission. I informed his Excellency that I had positive instructions from Her Majesty's Government to send him, and that the matter was no longer in my hands.

It was proposed, among the various suggestions we discussed, that the Vali of Bitlis should be recalled, and that the inquiry should be held by the Consul at Erzeroum in place of Colonel Chermside, in order to allow time for further discussion, and I agreed that the departure of Colonel Chermside should be postponed until Saturday, but I stated that on that day he must start without fail.

Both the above proposals were rejected by the Sultan.

The following message has now been officially communicated to me by Saïd Pasha through Mr. Block:—

"His Imperial Majesty will send before to-morrow week a Commission to inquire into the events which have taken place in the Sassoon district, as well as into all the reports mentioned in the Memorandum presented to His Imperial Majesty by Her Majesty's Embassy on the 1st November.

"The Sultan considers that it is in his own interest to inquire into the facts as reported, and assures Her Majesty's Ambassador that the inquiry will be carried out in a just and impartial manner, and that punishment will fall on the guilty. The Commission will be composed of two or three Imperial Aides-de-camp and of a civil functionary, all trustworthy men, who will be sworn to give a true report. His Majesty does not believe in the charges which have been brought against Vice-Consul Hallward of inciting the Armenians to rebellion; he considers them null and void, and withdraws them."

Saïd Pasha, who has done his utmost to impress upon the Sultan the extreme gravity of the situation, stated to Mr. Block that he was prepared, in accordance with this message, either to write a further note withdrawing the accusations against Mr. Hallward, or to cancel the previous one. I would urge that your Lordship should

authorize me to accept the Sultan's proposals on condition that they are strictly adhered to, and to stop the departure of Colonel Chermside, whose mission His Imperial Majesty has shown a fixed resolve not to allow, his reason being that it would probably lead to a rising of the Armenians, and to consequent bloodshed.

I think that, in view of His Majesty's determination, Colonel Chermside's mission would do more harm than good to the Armenians.

No. 299.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1894.

I CONSENT to stop Colonel Chermside's departure for Bitlis under the circumstances reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 194 of to-day, and on the special ground that his mission might occasion bloodshed, and tend to prejudice the position of the Armenians.

I authorize your Excellency to accept the proposals made by the Sultan, and to express to His Imperial Majesty the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have heard that he has determined upon a thorough and impartial investigation of the recent occurrences in the Sassoun district.

For your confidential information I may add that accounts of the massacres have reached the Armenian Association, and a cry of indignation in the press here is to be expected.

No. 300.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(Received November 17.)

Sir, 3, *Plowden Buildings, London, November* 17, 1894.

I AM desired by the President and Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association to request that you will be so kind as to mention to the Earl of Kimberley the wish of this Association to form, with other bodies interested in the treatment of Christians in Turkey, a deputation to wait upon his Lordship. It is not proposed to exceed ten in number. The deputation would venture to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the necessity of calling the attention of the Powers to the grave administrative and judicial scandals in the Armenian provinces of Turkey, and it would ask his Lordship to consider the desirability of proposing the appointment of an International Commission, to be charged with the duty of carrying out, without further delay, the reforms indicated in the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Council ventures to think that the authoritative announcement of Lord Kimberley at the present time would have a good effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN, *Secretary.*

No. 301.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 17, 1894, 7·30 P.M.

BITLIS outrages.

In accordance with your Lordship's telegram No. 93 of yesterday, I have informed the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government have accepted the Sultan's proposals.

I am now using every endeavour to secure that the Commission of Inquiry, mentioned in my telegram to your Lordship No. 194 of the 16th November, should be immediately dispatched.

No. 302.

Foreign Office to Rustem Pasha.

(Private.)
My dear Ambassador, *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1894.

I HAVE given to Lord Kimberley the copy of the telegrams inclosed in your Excellency's note of yesterday, respecting the recent occurrences in the district of Sassoun.

Lord Kimberley regrets to say that the information received by us differs widely from that contained in these telegrams. He has learned with satisfaction that His Majesty the Sultan has ordered a searching inquiry into the facts.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 303.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 18, 1894, 2:30 P.M.

THE Sultan is beginning to evade the immediate dispatch of the Commission of Inquiry to Bitlis, and sent me this morning a very unsatisfactory message, to the effect that he intended to fulfil his promise with regard to the Mission, but that time and preparation would be required.

I am sending to the Palace a strong message in reply to this communication, and I am writing to Said Pasha in still stronger terms to point out the danger of delay.

I would be much obliged if your Lordship would speak in the same sense to Rustem Pasha.

No. 304.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 18, 1894, 6:50 P.M.

I REPORTED to your Lordship in my telegram No. 196 of to-day that I had sent communications to the Porte and to the Palace, urging that the Commission of Inquiry into the Bitlis outrages should start without delay.

Said Pasha, on receiving my letter, promised to do his utmost to keep the Sultan to his promise. His Imperial Majesty has replied to my message through Mr. Block that he was already in communication with two persons, and would shortly select a third, but that considerable preparation was necessary owing to the cold weather.

The Sultan repeated his disbelief in the truth of the charges, and said that he was sending the Commission, which is now to start at latest on Monday, the 26th, only with the view of maintaining good relations with England.

No. 305.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting a discovery of smuggled arms at Samsoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, November* 1, 1894.

FOR the second time this year, the Customs authorities at Samsoon have succeeded in discovering the landing of munitions of war.

In May last, a case from New York, discharged by an Austrian Lloyd's steamer, containing an agricultural machine, raised suspicion by rattling on the back of the porter, and on being examined some cartridges and rifles were found hidden beneath a false bottom.

Mr. Consular Agent de Cortanze now reports that on the 16th ultimo 400 Martini cartridges were discovered in one of the bales of leather from Marseilles, landed at Samsoon as deliverable to order, by one of the steamers of the Panhellenic Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 306.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 514. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, November* 9, 1894.

THE American Minister has communicated to me, confidentially, the following details as to an incident which has recently occurred in regard to the American school at Aintab, in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

Some weeks ago Mr. Terrell received a visit from the Secretary of the Grand Vizier, who informed him that two of the American Professors of the school in question were implicated in revolutionary plots, and requested that he would take steps to warn them against such proceedings. The Secretary added that some of the Armenian teachers employed in the school were suspected of carrying on treasonable correspondence, and that the intention of the Government was to have them arrested and their papers seized. The American Minister thereupon addressed a note to the Porte in which, while admitting that he had no Treaty right to interfere on behalf of these Armenians, who were not naturalized American citizens, he maintained that, as the arrest of the trained teachers in American schools would practically cause a cessation of the teaching given in them, and would thereby seriously interfere with the interests of American citizens who had given their time and money to establish those institutions, he might fairly claim a hearing when he urged that the teachers should not be sent to prison on capricious charges and without sufficient investigation. He asserted at the same time that he was entitled to depute some one to be present at the proceedings against them, and he proposed to send Mr. Riddle, his Secretary of Legation, to Aintab for the purpose. No serious objection was offered to this course, and the Secretary was dispatched on his journey. Facilities were applied for, and he was received with all due honour. On his arrival at Aleppo, he had an interview with the Vali, who denied that any charges had been brought against the American missionaries. Mr. Riddle proceeded to Aintab, where, in accordance with instructions from his Minister, he carefully avoided holding any communication with the teachers before the seizure of their correspondence took place. He was present when the Kaïmakam of Aintab in person took possession of the papers, and saw them placed in bags which were sealed for conveyance to Aleppo. He then returned to Aleppo and assisted at the examination of the suspected correspondence. Nothing whatever of a revolutionary kind was discovered, and the charges against the accused teachers were withdrawn.

Mr. Terrell appears to have dealt with the matter with much tact and skill, but the successful result was no doubt partly due to the firm attitude assumed by the United States' Government in February last, when insisting on the release from prison of some Armenians who had been naturalized in America, as reported in Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 70 of the 3rd February last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 307.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 518.)
My Lord, *Pera, November* 15, 1894.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 189 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a Notice which I have received from the Sublime Porte, accusing Mr. Hallward, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, of inciting the Armenians against the Turkish Government, and requesting that he might be instructed to return to Van.

A copy of my reply is also inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Memorandum.

LE Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Bitlis télégraphie que M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Van, qui se trouvait à Mouch, s'est rendu dernièrement à Bitlis et qu'à son instigation les Arméniens se trouvant dans ces deux villes ont tenu des conciliabules et signé une Adresse contre le Gouvernement Impérial qu'ils lui ont remise.

L'enquête effectuée par les autorités Impériales a établi, en outre, que le dit Agent, tout en exhortant, par l'entremise de son Drogman, les Arméniens à tenir de pareilles réunions, a été jusqu'à les pousser à se soulever contre le Gouvernement Impérial.

L'attitude de cet Agent se passe de tout commentaire. Aussi n'y-a-t-il aucun doute que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine, lorsqu'elle en aura pris connaissance, ne veuille bien lui infliger la réprimande qu'il a encourue et l'inviter, comme elle a bien voulu déjà le laisser espérer, à rentrer immédiatement à Van.

Le 8 Novembre, 1894.

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Memorandum.

THE British Ambassador has received with extreme surprise and regret from the Sublime Porte a "Notice" dated the 8th November which, among other charges against Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward, states that "the inquiry instituted by the Imperial authorities has proved that the said Agent, while exhorting the Armenians through his Dragoman to hold meetings, has gone so far as to urge them to rise against the Imperial Government."

The charge of instigating the subjects of His Imperial Majesty to rebellion is of so grave a character and so injurious, not only to the Vice-Consul, but to Her Majesty's Embassy, that the Ambassador feels bound to take immediate measures to have it investigated.

With this view he has decided that Colonel Chermside, the Military Attaché to the Embassy, whose long experience of Asia Minor and knowledge of the Turkish language specially qualify him for the task, should proceed at once to Bitlis, where he will be met by the Vice-Consul.

After hearing from the authorities the evidence on which they have based their accusation, Colonel Chermside will proceed to make a careful inquiry into Mr. Hallward's proceedings for the information and guidance of Her Majesty's Government.

It is needless to say that if the charge of urging the Armenians to rise can be substantiated the Vice-Consul will be severely dealt with.

As soon as the date of Colonel Chermside's departure is definitely fixed the Ambassador will apply to the Sublime Porte for the usual facilities for his journey.

British Embassy, November 11, 1894.

No. 308.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 522.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 15, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 518 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Saïd Pasha called on me this morning and handed to me, by order of the Sultan, the accompanying Memorandum on the subject of the disturbances in the Bitlis Vilayet.

He added that His Majesty requested me to communicate this statement to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Memorandum.

DES révoltés Arméniens portant des armes de provenance étrangère et se permettant de commettre des méfaits se sont réunis à des rebelles Kurdes et ont brûlé et dévasté des villages Musulmans sis dans ces parages. Pour donner une idée de la férocité de ces bandes Arméniennes, elles ont entre autres brûlé vif un Musulman après lui avoir introduit dans le ventre des matières fulminantes.

Des troupes régulières ont été envoyées sur les lieux avec ordre de mettre les habitants paisibles à l'abri de toutes ces déprédations; et à l'encontre des calomnies que l'on a débitées par rapport à cette expédition militaire, les troupes ont non seulement protégé et respecté la partie soumise de la population ainsi que les femmes et les enfants mais encore elles ont, en remplissant loyalement leurs devoirs, rétabli l'ordre et la tranquillité publique à la satisfaction des habitants paisibles. On a prétendu aussi que les Kurdes se seraient emparés des meubles, effets, et bestiaux des Arméniens fugitifs.

Tel n'est pas le cas. Ce sont les brigands eux-mêmes qui les ont emportés avec eux dans les montagnes avant de se mettre en révolte, et confiés à la garde de leurs acolytes Kurdes. Il n'est pas vrai non plus qu'il y ait eu enlèvement par les Kurdes de plusieurs femmes Arméniennes; ces femmes composant la famille des bandits susnommés se sont rendues elles-mêmes de leur propre gré auprès des insurgés Kurdes.

En ce qui regarde les villages Arméniens qui auraient été détruits, il s'agit précisément des villages des révoltés Arméniens que ceux-ci ont vidé avant de se livrer au brigandage. Quant au contenu d'un certain rapport prétendant que les Arméniens seraient opprimés et maltraités par la tribu Kurde "Bekranli." Ce fait est entièrement controuvé; et ce qui plus est, le malheureux brûlé avec torture par les Arméniens faisait parti de la tribu en question.

No. 309.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 19, 1894.*

I ENTIRELY approve your action as reported in your Excellency's telegrams Nos. 196 and 197 of the 18th instant.

In the interests of the Porte, I think it essential that the investigation of recent occurrences in the Vilayet of Bitlis should be impartial and searching; and I should wish you to make it clear that we must insist on dispatching Colonel Chermside to the spot to report, unless the Commission is satisfactorily constituted and starts at once, using all reasonable speed to enter upon its task.

No. 310.

Foreign Office to Mr. Hagopian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 19, 1894.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, forwarding copy of a letter received from Bitlis on the subject of alleged massacre of Armenians in that villayet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 311.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 19, 1894.*

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 10th instant, requesting that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople may be instructed to support representations which are being made to the Turkish Government on the subject of their refusal to allow the Armenian Catholic Patriarch to proceed to Rome.

I am directed by his Lordship to inform you, in reply, that the matter is not one in which Her Majesty's Government can interfere.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 312.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(Received November 20.)

Sir, *Anglo-Armenian Association, London, November 20, 1894.*

I AM desired by the President and Council of the Anglo-Armenian Association to inquire whether the Earl of Kimberley would kindly permit copies of any reports lately received from Asia Minor relative to the treatment of Armenians to be communicated to this Association.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD ATKIN.

No. 313.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 20, 1894.*

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 17th instant, expressing the wish that his Lordship will receive a joint deputation from the Anglo-Armenian Association and other bodies interested in the treatment of Christians in Turkey. I am to inform you, in reply, that Lord Kimberley does not think it desirable that he should receive a deputation on the subject, and would suggest that any observations which the Association wish to offer may be sent in writing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 314.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 21, 1894, 6·40 P.M.*

THE following is a list, furnished by Saïd Pasha, of the members who have been chosen to form the Commission of Inquiry into the Bitlis outrages. They are

unknown to us, but two of them are Imperial Aides-de-camp, who are said to have studied at Berlin:—

Mehemed Ali Pasha, General of Brigade, Aide-de-camp of the Sultan.

His Excellency Abdallah Pasha, General of Division, and Aide-de-camp of the Sultan.

Medjid Effendi, Director of Correspondence in the Ministry of the Interior; and Emner Bey, Director of the Constantinople Savings Bank.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs says Commission will start before next Sunday.

No. 315.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 373.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 21, 1894.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 518 of the 15th instant, forwarding a copy of a "Notice" which had been sent to you by the Sublime Porte, accusing Mr. Vice-Consul Hallward, on the authority of the Governor-General of Bitlis, of inciting the Armenians against the Turkish Government.

The reply returned by your Excellency to this communication in a Memorandum, of which you also inclose a copy, has the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 316.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Foreign Office, November 21, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of yesterday, requesting to be furnished with copies of any reports lately received from Asia Minor in regard to the treatment of Armenians.

His Lordship regrets that he cannot communicate to your Association copies of reports from Her Majesty's Consuls, but directs me to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that His Majesty the Sultan has decided to send a Commission at once to investigate the reports of massacres and other outrages in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I am to add that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is impressing on the Porte the importance of avoiding delay, and of making the investigation thoroughly searching and impartial.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 317.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 95.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1894.

IN conversation to-day I spoke about the Bitlis Commission to the Turkish Ambassador. Rustem Pasha assured me that he would at once, by telegraph, urge upon the Porte the necessity of immediately investigating the recent occurrences in the Sassoon district.

No. 318.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 199.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 22, 1894, 10·20 P.M.

SAID PASHA declares that the date fixed for the departure of the Commission of Inquiry into the Bitlis outrages will be adhered to.

The members of the Commission, whose names I communicated to your Lordship in my telegram No. 198 of yesterday, appear to be a fairly good selection.

No. 319.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 200.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 23, 1894, 2·45 P.M.

THE Ottoman Government have published Decrees conferring decorations on the Mufti of Moosh, who is said to have incited the troops against the Christians, and on Zeki Pasha, the Commandant of the 4th Army Corps.

The Mutessarif of Moosh, who protested against the massacres, has been dismissed.

The appointment of the Commission has been officially notified in the press. The notice states that the Commission is sent to inquire into the criminal conduct of Armenian brigands, and denies absolutely the truth of massacres.

Hafiz Tewfik is Second Military Commissioner, and not Mehemed Ali.

No 320.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1894.

THE announcement with respect to the Bitlis Commission, reported in your telegram No. 200 of to-day, is so grave in its nature that Her Majesty's Government must give it their serious consideration without any delay.

I must, however, at once express my surprise and pain at hearing that the inquiry is represented as one into the criminal conduct of Armenian brigands, and not into the truth of the reported massacre of Armenians; that even before the inquiry has been made the report laid before the Sultan and the Turkish Government by your Excellency has been declared publicly to be false; that decorations have been given to two Turkish officers concerned in the recent events; and that the Mutessarif who protested against the massacre has been deprived of his appointment.

Your Excellency shall receive instructions after I have consulted with my colleagues, as the matter cannot possibly be left in this position.

No. 321.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 201.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 24, 1894, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 99, I am convinced that nothing but force or joint action of all the Powers would induce the Sultan to admit the culpability of his functionaries, or to consent to foreign intervention of any kind in the matter. It must be remembered that it was entirely His Imperial Majesty's own suggestion to send the Commission as a substitute for Colonel Chermside's proposed Mission of Inquiry into the charges against Mr. Hallward.

As to the mode in which the appointment of the Commission is announced, it is in accordance with Turkish precedents, and is considered necessary to save the dignity and independence of the Caliph, but it does not really impose on any one; and although the culprits will be publicly whitewashed, they will privately be held responsible for

their acts. The best and wisest course would, in my opinion, be to maintain an attitude of entire reserve for the present. I believe that by pressing the Sultan any further, or departing from the attitude of friendly advice which I have hitherto maintained, we should be running the risk of raising serious complications.

No. 322.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 99 A.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 24, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 201 of this day, giving your views on the question of pressing the Sultan further with regard to the inquiry to be made by the Bitlis Commission, and the manner in which its objects have been announced.

The matter cannot, in my opinion, be left in its present position. Her Majesty's Government are bound to see that an impartial inquiry is made into the circumstances, and by the form of its appointment the Commission is deprived of that character.

I am inclined to insist on deputing Colonel Chermside to make an inquiry on the spot. It appears to me that under Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government would have a right to do so. By that Article the Porte is pledged to protect the Armenians against Circassians and Kurds, and it is provided that the Powers shall superintend the application of the steps taken with this object.

No. 323.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 523.)
My Lord, *Pera, November 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 338 of the 29th October, instructing me to bring to the notice of the Sublime Porte the information given by Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Aleppo respecting a renewal of the persecution of the Armenians by the Turkish authorities in that vilayet.

I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from Mr. Catoni on the same subject.

As the information contained in these two despatches appears to me to be somewhat too vague to allow a representation to be founded upon it, I have ventured, before complying with your Lordship's instructions, to communicate with Mr. Barnham, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, who has now arrived at his post, and to direct him to send me fuller particulars of the cases referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Acting Consul Catoni to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, November 2, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th October last, reporting on the condition of the Armenians in this vilayet, I have the honour to state that the local authorities are daily redoubling their vexations against them. Being entirely exposed to the whims of the Turkish functionaries, these latter, "under the pretence of suspecting them of conspiracy against the Government of the Sultan," are arresting and putting them in prison without trial!

In many instances, however, those who were in a position to bribe the Turkish officials with some money have been immediately released. It results, therefore, that only the poor people, "probably the most innocent," are the object of their extreme severity.

I must also report to your Excellency that, since a few days, the police of Aleppo have been considerably increased, and supplied with an ample distribution of Martini cartridges. Such a measure has enormously alarmed the population of this vilayet, especially the Christians.

It is pretended that the local authorities have acted in the circumstance in accordance with the instructions received from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CATONI.

No. 324.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 524.)
My Lord, *Pera, November 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 194 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block, giving an account of his interviews with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Surreya Pasha, the Sultan's Private Secretary, respecting Colonel Chermside's proposed visit to Bitlis, to inquire into the accusations brought against Mr. Hallward, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 324.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

ON Thursday evening, the 15th instant, Said Pasha sent for me and informed me hat the Sultan, to whom he had at great length repeated his conversations with your Excellency, had declined to remove the Vali, and was averse to Colonel Chermside's departure or Mr. Graves' visit to Bitlis. His Majesty was convinced that the presence of Colonel Chermside or of Mr. Graves would encourage and embolden the Armenians to acts of rebellion; that this might lead to an outburst of fanaticism, and that very serious consequences and bloodshed might ensue.

Finally, the Sultan said that as the Ambassador had desired in his Memorandum of the 1st November, he was prepared to send a Commission to inquire into what had taken place at Talori, and to investigate the circumstances related in your Excellency's *Mémoire*. The Commission would be composed of two or three Aides-de-camp of His Majesty's, and of a civil official; all men worthy of the greatest confidence.

They would be obliged to take an oath before His Majesty that they would render a truthful account of their inquiries, and His Majesty himself would inform and warn them that in case of abuse of their powers they would incur the most serious punishment. This Commission would start before the 23rd instant.

His Majesty would take every precaution to have the inquiry made in the most impartial and just manner, and if it was proved that any Government officials or others had been guilty of maladministration or irregularities, they would be seriously dealt with.

Said Pasha then pointed out to His Majesty that the Commission would not be able to investigate the charges against Mr. Hallward, which were the reason for Colonel Chermside's mission, and that your Excellency could not admit of their inquiring into charges against a British official, whereupon the Sultan stated that he did not give credence to the charges against Mr. Hallward; he considered them null and void, and withdrew them.

I said to Said Pasha that this was not sufficient, as the accusation had been made to the Porte in writing.

His Excellency replied he would either withdraw the document or annul it by another, just as your Excellency desired.

Said Pasha desired me to beg your Excellency on his behalf to ask Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the instructions with regard to Colonel Chermside.

Yesterday I was summoned to the Palace, and Surreya Pasha read to me a paper from His Majesty giving the Turkish version of the Talori incidents, and replying to

your Excellency's *Mémoire*. I took down the words, and herewith inclose the translation.

The Sultan's message then continued to the effect that, notwithstanding this information, as your Excellency had desired it, and in order to obtain a still more accurate account of what had really happened, he had decided to send a Commission, which would start in two or three days.

The rest of the message was the same as Said Pasha's communication concerning the Commission of the day before, which I have related above, with the single exception that the civil official was not mentioned.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Pera, November 17, 1894.

Inclosure 2 in No. 324.

Memorandum communicated to Mr. Block.

(Translation.)

SOME Armenian brigands had the audacity to rise in revolt among the mountains of Talori, filled the stomach of a Mussulman with powder, and then set fire to him, massacred a number of Mussulmans, burnt Mussulman villages, and violated Mussulman girls.

Imperial troops were dispatched to protect the peaceful population, and strict orders were given to disperse the rebels, but in no way to molest the loyal part of the population, or women or children, and, according to reports from that district, the above orders were strictly carried out.

In a communication received from the British Ambassador, it is stated that, according to the report of the Consul at Van, a number of Armenian villages were depopulated and destroyed, 3,000 individuals killed, the churches plundered, and the sacred ornaments and sacerdotal vestments publicly sold in the streets of Moush, and a number of women carried off by the Kurds.

The Ambassador's communication then pointed out the advisability of an official being sent to inquire into the matter.

From an inquiry made as to the statements contained in this communication it would appear that they are completely devoid of foundation; that this false information was given to the Consul by a set of seditious and ill-disposed persons, and that nobody, except the rebels, was in any way molested. All this was communicated in detail to the Embassy.

From this it is evident that there is no reason whatsoever for the dismissal of the Vali or any other official, or for summoning them to Constantinople.

No. 325.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 525.)

My Lord, *Pera, November* 19, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, extracts from the "Tarik," the Turkish Government paper, containing accounts of crimes alleged to have been committed by Armenians, and of the steps taken by the Imperial Government in order to bring the offenders to justice.

The character of these notices which are published officially is unusual, and shows an intention on the part of the authorities to attack the Armenians with their own weapons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Extracts from "Tarik" of Monday, November 18, 1894.

(Translation.)

ON the 24th October (5th November) last, fire broke out at half-past 1 (Turkish time) in the morning in the bazaar of the town of Beilan, destroying the greater part of the bazaar, the house of the Mufti, and a "Tekkeh."

Some three days after the fire it came to light, through a placard posted up in the bazaar, written partly in Turkish and partly in Armenian, and containing a number of coarse and seditious expressions and threats, that the fire had been caused by Armenians. Some officials were at once dispatched to investigate the matter.

As fires of this nature are of rather frequent occurrence of late, and as it is the sacred duty of the Imperial Government to safeguard the lives, reputation, and property of its law-abiding citizens, an Imperial Iradé was issued that in such cases a body of special judicial officials, with a capable Juge d'Instruction, should be sent to the spot to institute criminal proceedings, and have the offenders punished. Orders have consequently been sent to the Vali (of Aleppo) to put the Iradé into execution.

An Imperial Order was issued for the trial, before the Civil Courts, of some eight Armenians and other seditious persons lately arrested for the murder of Essad Agha and others in the Sandjak of Kara-Hissar, and orders have been transmitted to the authorities there to have the Iradé executed.

No. 326.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 202.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 26, 1894, 1·45 P.M.

I AM sending home to-day by post a despatch from our Consul at Erzeroum, covering a despatch from Mr. Hallward, dated Van, the 6th November.

Mr. Hallward reports in detail the same horrors as those described in the "Times" of the 17th November in the letter published by the Armenian Committee.

Mr. Graves, in his covering despatch, confirms the truth of the facts given by Mr. Hallward.

No. 327.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 203.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 26, 1894, 9·50 P.M.

THE French steamer which is to carry the Bitlis Commission to Trebizond leaves at daybreak to-morrow.

The members of the Commission are already on board.

No. 328.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 26, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me at my request this afternoon, when I told his Excellency of the very painful impression made upon Her Majesty's Government by the manner in which the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry into recent events in the Sassoon district had been officially notified at Constantinople.

I informed him that there would be another Cabinet Council on the 28th instant to decide upon the course to be taken by Her Majesty's Government, and I said I could not impress upon him too earnestly the gravity and extent of the consequences to which this entire nullification of the promised investigation might give rise. It was even possible that it might develop into an European question.

His Excellency expressed his ignorance of the notification, and said that he would immediately inform the Porte of my observations by telegraph.

No. 329.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received November 27.*)

(No. 530.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1894.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 524 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block giving an account of further interviews he has had with Surreya Pasha, the Sultan's First Secretary, respecting the dispatch of a Turkish Commission to investigate the recent incidents that have occurred in the Bitlis Vilayet.

I also inclose copy of my letter to Said Pasha referred to in the last paragraph of Mr. Block's Memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Memorandum by Mr. Block respecting the Talori Incident and Commission of Inquiry.

November 19.—On the 17th I requested Surreya Pasha, the Sultan's First Secretary, to inform His Majesty that your Excellency had received a telegram from Lord Kimberley authorizing you to delay Colonel Chermside's departure, that you had immediately informed Said Pasha of the fact by letter on the evening of the 16th, that your Excellency desires to point out that "it was owing to the extremely strong and energetic representations of Said Pasha that Colonel Chermside's mission was abandoned for the present; Said Pasha had pointed out that the mission of a military man would inevitably rouse the aspirations of the Armenians, embolden them to illegal acts, and would probably lead to bloodshed; that your Excellency, although of opinion that Colonel Chermside ought to have started on the 19th, finally gave way to Said Pasha's violent representations, and advised the suspension of the instructions to Colonel Chermside; that in view of the cry of indignation which would infallibly appear in the European press, it was of the utmost importance that the Commission should start at once, as promised by His Imperial Majesty. In fact, that it was on this condition only that Her Majesty's Government, always anxious to guard the interests of Turkey and the Sultan, had consented to agree to Colonel Chermside's not going, and if the Commission did not start in three or four days at the latest it would be too late, and the only possible means of counteracting the bad effect of the statements in the press would be lost. That the sending of the Commission is therefore of the utmost importance; had it started a fortnight ago it would have been better; there was still just time, but if the opportunity was now lost, Her Majesty's Government would find it almost impossible to restrain public opinion in England." I also expressed your Excellency's satisfaction that the Sultan had decided to send a Commission.

Surreya Pasha sent in my communication at once to the Sultan, but it was only on the following morning, Sunday, that his Excellency sent for me, and informed me that the Sultan had not yet chosen the members of the Commission; that this would naturally take some time, as the selection would have to be made with great care; they would have to study all the documents connected with the case, and to receive their instructions from His Majesty, and then they would have to make preparations for departure and for their arduous journey in a snow-bound country. At the same time the Commission would be sent, His Majesty recognizing the necessity for it, but it would require some time. Lastly, the Sultan desired your Excellency to counteract the bad effect of the publications in the British and European press.

After communicating to your Excellency the somewhat unsatisfactory terms of the message, I again went back to the Palace, and, by your Excellency's instructions, I sent a message to the Sultan through Surreya Pasha to the effect that "your Excellency was pleased at learning that the Sultan recognized the necessity of sending the Commission, and the importance of choosing the best men for the task, but that your Excellency desired to point out that it was even of greater importance that the constitution and the date of departure of the Commission should be at once definitely fixed. It was in consequence of His Majesty's promise that the Commission would start in three or four days that your Excellency was able to persuade Her Majesty's Government to delay Colonel Chermside's mission."

I said "that your Excellency would certainly do your best, and Her Majesty's Government also, to counteract the effects of the publication of these incidents in the press, but that you desired to point out in the strongest possible manner that both you and Her Majesty's Government would be helpless to assist the Sultan if the Commission did not start before Friday. Any delay was most serious, and your Excellency solemnly warned His Majesty that time presses, and that if you could not, within one or two days, inform Her Majesty's Government of the constitution of the Mission and of its departure before Friday, your earnest desire to assist His Majesty might be of no avail, and the praiseworthy measures which His Majesty had decided to take would certainly and entirely have lost their value."

Arif Bey, the Chamberlain, brought me back the Sultan's reply that he had already thought of two persons, and was considering the choice of a third, as members of the Commission; that he had had all the documents sent for, and that the Commission would leave before Monday the 26th, and that orders would be sent to facilitate their journey to Bitlis. At the same time, His Majesty did not admit England's rights to insist on the sending of a Commission; that was an internal matter which concerned the Imperial Government alone, and if he was now sending one it was only out of regard for the friendly representations of England, with whom he desired to maintain the good relations which existed. His decision in respect of the Commission was to be considered in the light of a friendly and courteous act.

November 20.—Your Excellency had the same afternoon sent a letter to Said Pasha, which his Excellency communicated to the Sultan, and this morning Said Pasha desired me to report to you the Sultan's answer to the effect that, *without fail*, the Commission would start before Sunday, that two members were chosen—Said Pasha did not know their names—and that the *two* others would be decided upon at once. I later on thanked Said Pasha on your behalf for the message, and his Excellency communicated your thanks to the Palace, and informed me that directly he knew the names of the Commissioners he would let me know.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Sir P. Currie to Said Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Péra, le 18 Novembre, 1894.*

J'AI été vivement peiné en recevant ce matin un message que Sa Majesté Impériale m'a fait l'honneur de me transmettre par l'entremise de Surreya Pacha. J'ai eu le regret d'apprendre que Sa Majesté Impériale a l'intention de retarder l'exécution immédiate de la promesse que votre Excellence m'a autorisé de la part de Sa Majesté à transmettre à mon Gouvernement; c'est-à-dire, qu'une Commission d'Enquête serait envoyée dans le délai d'une semaine à compter du 15 courant au Vilayet de Bitlis. C'est, comme votre Excellence le sait, sur la foi de ces assurances que j'ai amené mon Gouvernement à suspendre la mission du Colonel Chermside, qui était devenue nécessaire à cause des graves accusations portées par le Gouvernement Impérial contre le Vice-Consul Anglais à Van. Ces assurances ont été publiées dans l'espoir d'arrêter le plus possible l'émotion suscitée par les rapports sur les événements de Sassoon, qui sont en train d'arriver de plusieurs sources.

Je prie votre Excellence de rappeler à Sa Majesté Impériale que lorsque je communiquai, il y a dix-huit jours à Sa Majesté Impériale les rapports de notre Vice-Consul et que je suggérai l'envoi d'une Commission, j'espérai être utile à Sa Majesté, et lui montrer d'avance un moyen par lequel elle pourrait échapper à la responsabilité que l'Europe ne manquerait pas de lui attribuer pour les actes des autorités locales, s'ils n'étaient pas soumis à une enquête indépendante.

L'urgence d'une telle enquête est aujourd'hui beaucoup plus grande. Les informations, qui n'étaient alors qu'en route, sont maintenant arrivées et commencent à être circulées par la presse Européenne. A moins que le Gouvernement Anglais et les autres Gouvernements qui veulent du bien à l'Empire Ottoman ne puissent dire qu'une Commission d'Enquête est déjà partie, ou est sur le point de partir, il deviendra impossible d'arrêter le torrent d'accusations, fausses ou vraies, qui sera tourné contre le Sultan et son Gouvernement et qui pourra avoir des effets aussi regrettables que ceux qui ont suivi les incidents en Bulgarie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 330.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 204. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 27, 1894, 5 P.M.*

RUSTEM PASHA'S report of his conversation with your Lordship was only received this afternoon, and will be laid before the Sultan this evening.

Before its receipt the following telegram had been sent to Rustem Pasha by the Porte:—

"Commission has started and will make impartial inquiry into the facts and reports connected with the Sassoon incident."

This telegram has been sent in deference to my remonstrances, but I learn privately that it does not represent the views of the Sultan, who still refuses to admit any but the version officially published here.

I am confidentially informed that the instructions received from His Imperial Majesty by the First Commissioner, Abdallah Pasha, were in accordance with that version, and were so distasteful to that functionary, who is said to have had honest intentions, that he was with difficulty persuaded to start.

No. 331.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 27, 1894.*

IT has occurred to me that we might propose to the Powers which have Consuls at Erzeroum to make a joint application to the Porte to give facilities to our Consuls to communicate with the Commission, and to report the progress of the inquiry to their respective Governments.

This would be a milder form of intervention than a formal appeal to the Berlin Treaty.

Should your Lordship approve of this suggestion, perhaps the best plan would be that I should privately sound my French and Russian colleagues, as France and Russia are the only Powers besides ourselves that have Consuls at Erzeroum.

No. 332.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 532.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 24, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 198 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Block giving an account of the antecedents of the members of the Commission appointed by the Sultan to inquire into the recent incidents in the Bitlis Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 332.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

SAID PASHA has informed me that the members of the Commission are as follows: Abdallah Pasha, Mehemet Ali Pasha, Emner Bey, and Medjid Effendi, and that they will leave before Sunday.

His Excellency Abdallah Pasha is an Arab by origin, was educated at the Lycée Impérial and the Imperial Military School, at the latter he passed his examinations brilliantly; he has been attached to Goltz Pasha, and with him has made several tours

of military inspection in Roumelia and Asia Minor. Goltz Pasha has a good opinion of him. He speaks German, and is supposed to be a partizan of the German policy. He is intelligent, and has a good reputation, though somewhat proud and self-sufficient. He forms part of the Military Commission at the Palace, and is a protégé of Dervish Pasha. He married Raghib Bey's niece, and has received within the last few days the first class of the Medjidieh. He is a General of Division, and Aide-de-camp of His Imperial Majesty.

Mehemet Ali Pasha (replaced by Hafiz Tewfik) is a General of Brigade, and Aide-de-camp of His Imperial Majesty, a member of His Imperial Majesty's Staff. He has served as Staff Officer in Germany, where he completed his studies, and passes for an intelligent and well-educated officer.

Emner Bey has been employed at the Ministry of Finance in the Cash Department, and is now Director of the Constantinople Savings Bank. He has a first-rate reputation for truthfulness and honesty, and is generally very well spoken of, but is not of great mental ability.

Medjid Effendi is Director of the Correspondence Department of the Ministry of the Interior. He is chosen as Clerk to the Commission, and as having a knowledge of the documents connected with the Talori incident. He has been Secretary-General of the Commission for the selection of employés, when Edhem Pasha was Minister of the Interior. He is somewhat conceited, but has no real importance in the Commission.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

November 22, 1894.

P.S.—It is as well to add that the Turkish papers publish an official Notice saying that Hafiz Tewfik Pasha, Aide-de-camp and General of Brigade, is a member of the Commission in the place of Mehemet Ali Pasha.

A. B.

No. 333.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 533.)
My Lord, *Pera, November 24, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 200 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of an article in the "Tarik" of the 23rd November, giving an official denial to the statements in the European press respecting the reported massacres of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of November 23, 1894.

AN official communication published in the Turkish papers says:—

"Lately some foreign papers gave currency to a false report stating that the Ottoman troops had destroyed some villages in the Caza of Sassoon, and that there had been loss of life; other newspapers, in reprinting these reports, added that the reason why these news had not up to the present reached Europe was that no one had been allowed to leave the Caza of Sassoon. Now it is a patent fact that the subjects of His Imperial Majesty living in the Caza of Sassoon continue to attend as before to their daily business in perfect tranquillity, and that travellers come and go in perfect security; but, in consequence of criminal acts calculated to disturb public peace, such as murders and pillage, which had been lately committed by Armenian brigands in the environs of Talouri, at the incitement of some malevolent persons, the Government has been compelled to take the necessary measures for re-establishing order. With this object in view a sufficient number of troops, detached from the 4th Army Corps, were sent to the spot to prevent the extension of the disturbances. Tranquillity having been re-established, the Imperial troops have returned to their quarters. A Commission will leave this week to open an inquiry into the acts of the said brigands. The Commission is composed of General of Division, Abdallah Pasha, Aide-de-camp

of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; Eumer Bey, Director of the Savings Bank Medjid Effendi, First Secretary of the Correspondence Office of the Ministry of the Interior; and Brigadier-General Tewfik Pasha, of His Imperial Majesty's Military Household. It is evident that the Imperial Government can never tolerate on the part of any of its subjects such acts as are reported in the above-named papers."

No. 334.

Rustem Pasha to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received November* 28.)

Mon cher Comte, *Ambassade de Turquie, Londres, le* 28 *Novembre*, 1894.

SUIVANT le désir que vous m'avez exprimé, je vous transmets ci-incluse la copie du télégramme dont j'ai donné hier soir lecture à votre Seigneurie, et dont il résulte que la Commission, qui a déjà quitté Constantinople, est chargée de faire une enquête impartiale sur les faits se rattachant à l'incident de Sassoun.

Depuis lors, j'ai reçu une autre dépêche de Constantinople qui m'apporte la traduction de la communication publiée par les journaux. Il s'agit, non pas d'une Proclamation, mais d'un simple Communiqué, inséré en même temps que plusieurs autres se rapportant à divers sujets, et dont le but principal était de combattre les exagérations publiées par certains journaux étrangers sur les incidents dont il s'agit.

La Sublime Porte semble croire, d'après la dépêche que je reçois, que votre Seigneurie a attaché à cette publication une importance beaucoup plus grande qu'elle n'en comporte réellement.

Je compte me rendre au Foreign Office cet après-midi, et j'espère avoir l'honneur d'y rencontrer votre Seigneurie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RUSTEM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

Saïd Pasha to Rustem Pasha.

Constantinople, le 27 *Novembre*, 1894.

LA Commission d'Enquête vient de quitter Constantinople pour se rendre sur les lieux par voie de Trébizonde. Elle est chargée d'examiner impartialement les faits et rapports relatifs à l'incident de Sassoun, et de nous en rendre compte au plus tôt.

(Signé) SAÏD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 334.

Notification.

(Traduction du Turc.)

CERTAINS journaux d'Europe ont cru devoir dernièrement répandre de fausses nouvelles annonçant que les troupes Ottomanes auraient détruit quelques villages Arméniens sis dans le district de Sassoun et y auraient en même temps commis des meurtres.

Quelques-unes de ces mêmes feuilles ont grossi outre mesure les faits, en ajoutant que s'ils n'ont pas été connus en Europe, c'est par suite de la défense faite aux voyageurs de quitter ces parages. Les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale qui habitent les districts dont il s'agit vaquent comme par le passé tout à leur aise et tranquillement à leurs affaires, et ils sont libres de se rendre où bon leur semble en toute sécurité.

Mais à la suite des actes de brigandage que plusieurs bandits Arméniens, égarés par les instigations d'agitateurs, ont osé commettre en violation de l'ordre public à Talori et ses alentours, tels que assassinats, pillages, et vols de grand chemin, les autorités ont dû naturellement prendre les mesures propres à réprimer le mouvement. En conséquence un nombre suffisant de troupes du 4e Corps d'Armée Impérial fut expédié sur les lieux, et l'extension de la rébellion fut ainsi arrêtée. Aussitôt le calme rétabli, les troupes retournèrent à leurs cantonnements. De même aucune intervention n'eût lieu à cette occasion de la part des Kurdes. Tous ces actes répréhensibles

commis par des insurgés Arméniens ayant été rapportés par le Maréchal Commandant-en-chef du 4e Corps d'Armée, et le Gouverneur-Général de la Province de Bitlis, il été décidé d'envoyer sur les lieux par le premier bateau à vapeur devant partir cette semaine une Commission chargée de faire une enquête sur les méfaits des brigands en question, et composée de leurs Excellences le Général de Division, Abdoullah Pacha, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté le Sultan; le Directeur de la Caisse d'Épargne, Eumer Bey; le Premier Secrétaire du Bureau du Secrétariat du Ministère Impérial de l'Intérieur, Medjid Effendi; et de Haliz Tewfik Pacha, Général de Brigade d'État-Major à la suite de Sa Majesté.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne pouvant jamais tolérer des publications pareilles touchant les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale qui jouissent tous à titre égal de la justice et de la clémence souveraine, la présente communication est faite pour rétablir les faits sous leur véritable jour et démentir les publications dont il s'agit.

No. 335.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1894.

INSTRUCTIONS will shortly be sent to your Excellency to present to the Porte a formal protest against the official notification which has appeared with reference to the appointment of the Bitlis Commission, declaring that Her Majesty's Government cannot regard as satisfactory an inquiry instituted under such circumstances, and reserving to themselves complete liberty of action.

Your suggestion that an inquiry should be held by the British, French, and Russian Consuls at Erzeroum is favourably viewed by the Cabinet, but it would not, in their opinion, be sufficient for the Consuls merely to communicate with the Commission, and report the progress of its work. It would be necessary that they should undertake an entirely separate investigation, quite independent of the Turkish Commissioners.

You should sound the French and Russian Representatives on the subject of such an inquiry, and ascertain whether their respective Consuls would be empowered to join in it.

No. 336.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 370.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador sent me this morning a copy of the telegram from the Porte, which he read to me yesterday, stating that the Commission of Inquiry had left Constantinople, and was instructed to make an impartial investigation into the facts connected with the occurrences in the Sassoon district.

His Excellency also communicated to me a translation from the Turkish of the notification published in the newspapers. He stated that it was not a proclamation, but a simple "Communiqué," inserted with others relating to different subjects, with the main object of counteracting the exaggerated statements regarding the events referred to which had appeared in certain foreign journals. His Excellency gathered from the despatch which he had received from the Porte that I attributed much greater importance to the notification than really attached to it.

I transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of both communications.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

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* Inclosures in No. 334.

No. 337.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November 29, 1894, 11·40 A.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador went to St. Petersburgh to attend the Emperor's funeral, and it is not known when he will return.

The French Ambassador has gone to Vienna to meet Mme. Cambon, but returns on Saturday.

As soon as he arrives I will sound him, and then communicate with M. Jadowsky, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 338.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 377.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 29, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 530 of the 21st instant, forwarding copies of a Memorandum by Mr. Block of his interviews with Surreya Pasha, and of the note addressed by your Excellency to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, with respect to the dispatch of the Commission of Inquiry into the recent events in the Sassoon district.

Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of your Excellency's note to Said Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 339.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 539.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 202 of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, forwarding one from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting further details of the massacre at Sassoun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 339.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November 15, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch which has reached me from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, under flying seal, to your Excellency, upon which I beg to offer the following observations.

Reports of the horrible barbarities committed by the Turkish troops and their Kurdish auxiliaries in Sassoun have reached me from time to time from various private sources, but I was loath to believe them, and refrained from reporting them officially while Mr. Hallward was engaged in inquiries upon the spot. Now that his inquiries are finished, it is my duty to inform your Excellency that the above reports from quite independent sources agree in almost all respects with the main lines of Mr. Hallward's narrative. I know also that my foreign colleagues here are in possession of information tending to confirm the truth of his reports, and differing chiefly with regard to the estimated number of the victims of the massacre, which their informants place at a somewhat lower figure than Mr. Hallward would seem inclined to do. And these persistent and circumstantial stories of massacre and atrocity have now

reached the general public, and become matters of notoriety throughout the country, so that I venture to say that no intelligent person in these provinces, not being a Turkish official, would think of doubting that they were indeed committed by Turkish troops in Sassoun. I also venture to point out the general agreement with Mr. Hallward's reports of the account from Armenian sources, furnished in my Confidential despatch of the 13th ultimo. The discrepancy in the number of villages destroyed is easily explained by the fact, that the letter from which much of my information was derived was written before the end of the operations and the slaughter of the remainder of the Talori people, which, according to Mr. Hallward, only took place on the 10th September.

With regard to Osman Pasha, who is described by Mr. Hallward as a Ferik, in command of the troops in Sassoun before Zeki Pasha's appearance, I may observe that the only general officer of that name in the 4th Army Corps is the Brigadier-General (Siva) of Redifs at Erzingian, and I have not yet been able to ascertain whether he was engaged in the recent military operations.

I believe that the ex-Mutessarif of Moush, who only remained a very few weeks at that post, was mistaken in telling Mr. Hallward that the village of Semal had a population of 350 to 400 only, and the Mutessarif probably meant the neighbouring large village of Ghelié Guzan, which really had a population of about 1,700 souls, who are said to have been almost entirely exterminated.

While the present reign of terror lasts, and Tahsin Pasha is still maintained in his post of Vali of Bitlis, it is hopeless to expect that natives of the country should come forward and give evidence as to what has occurred. Anyone attempting an exhaustive investigation into the charges of atrocity and massacre must have a free hand, and full powers to take evidence, or he would find himself isolated and paralyzed by the action of the local authorities, as Mr. Hallward was. But the destruction of life and property has been too great for its traces to be easily concealed, and a ruined and depopulated district remains to prove the substantial truth of Mr. Hallward's allegations, wherever the Turkish Government are prepared to facilitate a full and impartial inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 339.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Van, November 6, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I remained in Moush till the 16th ultimo, and, after passing through quarantine, arrived in Bitlis on the 25th ultimo.

The information I obtained in Moush and Bitlis subsequently to the date of my despatch fully confirmed the substantial accuracy of the main facts related therein respecting the Sassoun massacre, of which I now beg to submit a more detailed account.

The attention of the Government appears to have been drawn towards that district by the proceedings of one, Damadian, an Armenian Catholic from Constantinople, who in 1892 went about the villages of the Sassoun district and the Moush Plain in such a manner as to induce the authorities to believe that he was conducting a political agitation. Efforts were made to effect his arrest for some time without success, but in May 1893 he was captured by the police, taken to Bitlis, and thence sent to Constantinople, where he was granted a pardon. What this man's real character or object was in acting as he did I cannot state positively, nor by what means he obtained pardon; but I do not believe that the agitation amounted to much, or had much effect on the villagers. One thing seems clear, that shortly after his capture the fate of the Sassoun Armenians was sealed. Tribal Kurds began to assemble in large numbers in the neighbourhood of Talori in such a way as to alarm the villagers, who began to make preparations in anticipation of an attack, which, in fact, shortly took place. The Armenians, being in a stronger position than the Kurds, repulsed them with considerable loss, their own loss being small. At the same time, they broke down a bridge over a deep gorge across which other Kurds were coming to join in the attack. The Kurds then retired, finding themselves worsted, and Hassan Tahsin Pasha, Vali of Bitlis, appeared on the scene with a detachment of troops.

After some parley with the villagers, which had no effect, the Vali departed, leaving the soldiers on the spot. The Armenians were in a strong position, and the troops did not attack them, but waited in the hope of reducing them by famine. This attempt, however, failed, and at the beginning of winter they returned to Bitlis.

Then followed the events related in my former despatch: the Vali's summons to the principal villagers, and their refusal to appear, the dispatch of a detachment of troops to the district in the early summer, the assembling of the tribal Kurds, and the affray between the latter and the Armenians on account of stolen cattle, and the arrival of reinforcements of troops in August.

The troops sent from Bitlis took eighty tins of petroleum with them, and also four mountain guns.

At first the troops did not show themselves in the villages, but the Kurds were urged to attack the latter. The Armenians, thinking they had only to deal with Kurds, made a vigorous resistance and repulsed them. The latter refused to return to the attack unless helped by the soldiers, some of whom then assumed Kurdish costume, and joined in an attack which was more successful.

The troops now began to show themselves in some of the villages, saying that they had come to protect them; they lodged the night in them, and during the night rose and slaughtered all the inhabitants, men, women, and children. The Ferik (General), whose name, I think, is Osman Pasha (not Imail Bey, as stated in my previous despatch), and who came from Erzingian, read an Imperial Firman, authorizing the punishment of the villages, and exhorted the soldiers not to fail in their duty. It is said that at first they hung back, not relishing their task, but their officers urged them on with threats, and the work of destruction and butchery was carried through without mercy or distinction of age or sex.

A large number of the leading men, headed by a priest, went out to meet the Commanding Officer with their tax receipts in their hands, by way of proving their loyalty to the Government, and begging for mercy. They were surrounded and killed to a man.

At Ghelié Guzan a number of young men were bound hand and foot, laid out in a row, had brushwood piled on them, and were burnt alive.

At another village a priest and several leading men were captured and promised release if they would tell where others had fled to; they did so, but were killed. The priest had a chain put round his neck and pulled in opposite directions, so that he was nearly throttled; finally, bayonets were placed upright in the ground, and he was tossed in the air so that he fell on them.

The men of another village fled with their women and children to a grotto, where they remained for several days, till the weaker ones died of hunger; the remainder were at last discovered by the soldiers and put to the bayonet, which was the weapon principally employed throughout.

Some sixty young women and girls were driven into a church, where the soldiers were ordered to do as they liked with them and afterwards kill them, which order was carried out.

A larger number of the most attractive women were set aside and invited to accept Islam and marry Turks; they refused, and were accordingly killed.

The petroleum brought from Bitlis was utilized for burning the houses, together with the inhabitants inside them. A soldier related in Bitlis how he had seen on one occasion a little boy run out from the flames, and pushed back into them with a bayonet by another soldier. It was also used to burn the corpses.

Many other disgusting barbarities are said to have been committed, such as ripping open pregnant women, tearing children to pieces by main force, &c.; but the above will serve as examples of the way in which this campaign of extermination was carried out.

I must modify the statement I made in my former despatch, that the Kurds did not take any large share in the massacre. At the instigation of the soldiers they certainly did take part in it, though the worst excesses seem to have been committed by the former.

A large number of the villagers fled to a peak near Talori, and determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. The Kurds were sent to attack them several days in succession, but did not produce much effect; finally, when their ammunition and food gave out, the soldiers reached the summit with little loss, and killed nearly every one of them.

The final scene was enacted in the Valley of Talvoreeg, where a large number of men, women, and children had collected; they were surrounded by Kurds and soldiers,

and first thinned out by rifle-shots, and then the rest dispatched with sword and bayonet.

The operations lasted some twenty-three days, from about the 18th August to the 10th September, having been begun by the Bitlis and Moush garrisons, who were gradually reinforced by other troops of the 4th Army Corps. By that time the Commander-in-chief arrived from Erzingian and put a stop to further slaughter; otherwise the destruction of four more villages is said to have been contemplated, among others that of Vurtennis, in the plain of Moush, which has been in ill-odour with the Government ever since the trial of Moussa Bey, when several of the villagers went to Constantinople to give evidence against him.

A Kurdish Chief who arrived late on the scene of action found there was nothing left to plunder, and so went off and got what plunder he could from a village in another district.

The details given above were principally collected from soldiers who took part in the massacre, and I have heard the main facts substantiated from various different quarters, among others by a Turkish zaptieh, who was there and saw the whole affair.

Whether the number of 8,000 killed, mentioned in my former despatch, is at all near the mark, I cannot say; in Bitlis I heard a far higher estimate given, but there can be no doubt that a large majority of the population of some twenty-five villages perished, and some of the villages were unusually large for this country. Thus, the Mutessarif of Moush told me that the village of Semal had a population of some 1,700 souls. From what I heard in Bitlis, the number who escaped must have been comparatively small. A soldier was heard to say in quarantine on his way back from Moush that he had killed five persons, and that he had killed the least of any; another boasted that he had killed 100. The number of prisoners taken was small. I do not think more than from twenty to thirty, whose lives were spared on the arrival of the Commander-in-chief. Among them were a few agitators of the type of Damadian, but none of them were foreigners, as was reported at first.

There was no insurrection, as was reported in Constantinople; the villagers simply took up arms to defend themselves against the Kurds. The statement made to me by an official here of their having killed soldiers and zaptiehs (reported in my despatch to Mr. Graves of the 31st August last), I found after careful inquiry to be false. Before arriving in Moush, I naturally supposed that something of the sort must have occurred to call for such a display of military force, but neither the Mutessarif nor the Military Commandant with whom I spoke on the subject hinted at anything of the sort, nor did I learn elsewhere that the Armenians had been guilty of any act of rebellion against the Government.

The Mutessarif of Moush shortly after my departure was moved to Kerkouk in the Vilayet of Moosul, and the Mutessarif of Kerkouk is to take his place. I do not know what the precise significance of this change may be, but presume it is due to the Vali, who appears to have thought that the Mutessarif had been prejudicing me against him, though in fact he did nothing of the kind. I did not see the Vali, as he left for Sairt two days before my arrival. Great apprehension is felt in Bitlis at the prospect of his remaining longer in office, as the responsibility for the Sassoun massacre is mainly attributed to him, and it is feared that the lives of the Christians in the town will not be safe if such a thing passes unnoticed. He has practically admitted his responsibility, as he tried to get a document signed by the townspeople thanking him for the measures he took in Sassoun, but they refused to sign it. He succeeded, however, in forcing many Heads of villages to sign such a document, and it was published in the newspapers. He has now been in Bitlis for upwards of three years, and has been continually trading on the "Armenian question," extorting money by threats from Armenians in every part of the province; he failed to do so in Sassoun, but has succeeded in amply revenging himself.

In conclusion, I beg to say that I had considerable difficulty in obtaining reliable information, as I was closely watched the whole time by police agents, so that most of the natives were afraid to be seen speaking to me. I was prevented from visiting the Sassoun district on the ground that I might carry the cholera infection to the troops, as stated by the local authorities, and, according to the authorities in Constantinople, because my presence there might have caused an insurrection. I had no intention of visiting the troops, and therefore they ran no risk of infection from me, and after what had occurred the danger of an insurrection was, to say the least, exceedingly remote. However, the principal facts are, I think, clear, and the details I have given above were obtained from a reliable source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 340.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, November* 30, 1894, 8·15 P.M.

I HAVE just received a visit from Said Pasha, who left with me a signed copy of certain proposals which the Sultan had authorized him to make to me.

The text of these proposals is as follows:—

"Pour ne laisser aucun doute sur l'impartialité du Rapport de la Commission chargée de faire une enquête dans l'affaire de Sassoon, je propose l'envoi d'un fonctionnaire Américain, choisi par la Légation des États-Unis de l'Amérique à Constantinople, pour aller sur les lieux et assister à l'enquête de la Commission qui sera faite d'une manière juste et impartiale. Le dit fonctionnaire signera le Rapport de la Commission."

I at once wrote to Mr. Terrell, the United States' Minister, to inquire whether he and his Government had given their assent to the above proposal, and, if so, whom he would suggest to undertake the inquiry.

Mr. Terrell, in his reply, expresses his willingness with the consent of the President to name an impartial man, an American functionary, to assist at the deliberations of the Sassoon Commission. He promises to telegraph at once to the President of the United States for his consent, and expects to be able to give the President's answer by Monday next.

Mr. Terrell says that it would depend upon the contents of the Report of the Commission whether his nominee would sign it or not, and presumes that in case of any disagreement the fact would be noted in the Report.

Before taking any action on your telegram No. 102, I shall, in view of the above proposal, await your Lordship's further instructions.

No. 341.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1894.

I HAVE received the horrible details of the events in the Vilayet of Bitlis given in the reports from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Erzeroum and Van, which were forwarded in your despatch No. 539 of the 26th instant.

Your Excellency should bring these reports to the knowledge of the French and Russian Representatives at Constantinople, and inquire whether information of a similar nature has reached them.

No. 342.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador told me this afternoon that another public Notification would be issued officially in terms which would dispel all doubts as to the searching and impartial character of the investigation to be conducted by the Commission of Inquiry.

While thanking his Excellency for this announcement, I told him that, personally, I feared that this subsequent rectification would not be sufficient to relieve Her Majesty's Government from the duty of making a protest against the Notice which had been first published, nor did I think the issue of a fresh Notice would obviate the necessity of calling for an independent and separate investigation, more especially as a despatch had just arrived from your Excellency inclosing further reports of a most horrible character as to atrocities which had taken place.

I said, however, that I would wait till I had received the exact terms of the fresh Notice, and had discussed its effect with my colleagues.

No. 343.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 377 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador called to-day, and read to me a telegram from the Porte, stating that a fresh official Notice would be issued, which would remove any doubts as to the impartial and searching nature of the inquiry to be instituted by the Bitlis Commission, and that the Sultan trusted that this "Communiqué" would remove the bad impression made upon Her Majesty's Government by the previous notification.

His Excellency expressed his hope that this assurance would prove satisfactory, and that Her Majesty's Government would abandon their intention of addressing a formal protest to the Turkish Government.

I said that my own opinion was that such a subsequent rectification would not be sufficient to relieve Her Majesty's Government from the obligation of protesting against the previous announcement of what had taken place in the Bitlis Vilayet, and of the object for which the Commission was sent there. That notification was a public document, and could not be passed over in silence.

I also thought Her Majesty's Government would still consider it necessary to require a separate and independent inquiry. I had just received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consular officers at Erzeroum and Van, giving additional and most horrible details of atrocities committed by the Turkish soldiery, and I could not exaggerate the effect which would be produced in this country by the publication of these reports.

I could say nothing further until I was in possession of the exact terms of the proposed new Notice, and had been able to consult my colleagues.

Rustem Pasha said he would send me the terms without delay. His Excellency expressed his great concern at the aspect which the question had assumed, and his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would display forbearance in their treatment of it.

I told him that I deeply regretted the situation which had been created by the Sultan's action, and that I desired, as earnestly as did his Excellency, to avert, if possible, the consequences which might follow.

I have communicated the material portions of this despatch to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 344.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 378.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1894.

HER Majesty's Government have received, with great regret and surprise, the official notification which has been inserted in the Turkish newspapers at Constantinople, and a condensed translation of which has also appeared in the English press of that capital, stating the grounds on which His Majesty the Sultan has decided to send a Commission of Inquiry into the district of Sassoon, and describing the nature of the investigations with which that Commission will be charged.

The reports which your Excellency laid before His Majesty the Sultan in regard to recent events in the Vilayet of Bitlis, derived by one of Her Majesty's Consular officers from sources believed by him to be trustworthy, tended to show that massacres and other atrocities had been committed in the district of Sassoon by large numbers of Kurds, and even by Turkish soldiers under the direction of the Turkish authorities.

In reply to the representations thus made by you, his Excellency Said Pasha informed you that His Imperial Majesty would at once send a Commission to make inquiry into the occurrences in the district of Sassoon and to investigate the circumstances mentioned in the Memorandum sent to him by your Excellency on the 1st November.

Said Pasha stated that His Majesty considered it was for his own interest to inquire into the facts reported, and assured you that the inquiry would be carried out in a just and impartial manner, and that the guilty would be punished.

In reliance on this assurance, and in consideration of the fact that certain counter-charges which had been made against the British Consular officer in question were

withdrawn and admitted to be baseless, your Excellency was instructed not to press that Colonel Chermside should be sent to the spot to conduct an inquiry into the facts.

But the official notification, putting aside altogether the complaints of the conduct of the Turkish troops as well as against the Kurds, states that it was in consequence of acts of brigandage, such as assassinations, pillaging, and highway robberies committed by Armenian bandits, that the Turkish authorities were compelled to take measures of repression, and that the Commission was about to be sent for the purpose of investigating the misdeeds of these bandits.

Such an announcement, which is only at variance with the Sultan's assurances, renders it impossible for Her Majesty's Government to accept the Commission as being of a nature to secure an impartial and satisfactory investigation of the facts of the case.

Rustem Pasha, it is true, on the 28th instant (five days after the issue of the notification), communicated to Her Majesty's Government a telegram from Said Pasha stating that the Commission is instructed to examine impartially the facts and reports relative to the incident at Sassoon. But this subsequent communication cannot remove the effect of the published notification.

In these circumstances Her Majesty's Government feel it their duty to protest formally against an inquiry so entirely unsatisfactory as insufficient to fulfil the engagements entered into by the Sublime Porte under the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and in presence of the grave situation thus created they must reserve to themselves entire liberty of action in regard to the whole matter.

Your Excellency will read this despatch to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and give him a copy of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 345.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 1, 1894.*

HER Majesty's Government are prepared to accept the proposal reported in your telegram No. 207 of the 30th ultimo, that an American official, selected by the United States' Minister at Constantinople, should be appointed to attend the investigations conducted by the Bitlis Commission, as providing a guarantee for the impartiality of the inquiry.

Two conditions are however essential: firstly, that the choice shall fall on a person who commands general confidence; and, secondly, that he shall be at liberty to make separate reports on points on which his opinion may be at variance with that of the Sultan's Commissioners.

If a satisfactory settlement of these conditions is arrived at, and the American Delegate starts without loss of time, Her Majesty's Government might consent to suspend any further immediate proceedings on their part, but they must reserve to themselves the most complete liberty of action.

No. 346.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 2, 1894, 3·15 P.M.*

I HAVE had a satisfactory conversation with the American Minister. He has not yet received the President's consent, but he assures me that if he gets the necessary authority, he will, in making the appointment, be guided solely by a desire to establish the truth.

His idea, which I consider excellent, is to send Mr. Riddle, the Secretary of the United States' Legation here, and Mr. Jewett, their Vice-Consul at Sivas.

Mr. Terrell considers that his Government will want to know the views of Her Majesty's Government before coming to a decision, and suggests that matters would be facilitated by your communicating direct with Washington.

Acting on your Lordship's telegram No. 106, I have informed the Sultan and the Porte that Her Majesty's Government are willing to accept the appointment of an American in principle, on the understanding that the American Minister is able to make a satisfactory selection, and that the functionary starts at once. Mr. Terrell had already stipulated that his Commissioner should be free to report to him. I gave no pledge as to the withdrawal of any further proceedings on our part. I presume that, under present circumstances, I am not to act upon your instructions to communicate formally with my Russian and French colleagues.

No. 347.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 2, 1894, 3·30 P.M.*

CONSUL LONGWORTH telegraphs that the members of the Commission arrived at Trebizond on the 30th ultimo and left to-day, and that they are limited by their instructions to ascertaining the truth about the Bitlis disturbances.

No. 348.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 2, 1894.*

IN accordance with the suggestion in your telegram No. 208 of to-day, I have instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington by telegraph to press the United States' Government to lose no time in authorizing their Minister at Constantinople to arrange that an American Delegate shall join the Bitlis Commission.

The communications which you were instructed to make to the Russian and French Representatives may be suspended.

No. 349.

The Earl of Kimberley to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 2, 1894.*

THE newspapers have published reports of horrible massacres in the Vilayet of Bitlis, near Lake Van, by Turkish soldiers and Kurds.

A Commission of Inquiry has been dispatched by the Sultan, but it has been deprived of the appearance of impartiality, which is essential, owing to the manner in which its appointment has been officially announced at Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government consequently addressed a protest to the Porte, and the Sultan now suggests, with a view to meeting our objections, that the United States' Representative at Constantinople should select an American Delegate to accompany the Commission of Inquiry, and to sign the report.

Her Majesty's Government are willing to accept this proposal as a guarantee for the impartial character of the inquiry, provided that the officer chosen is one who would command general confidence, and is at liberty to make independent reports on any points where he may disagree with the Turkish Commissioners.

You should speak to the Secretary of State in this matter at once, and urge that immediate authority may be sent to the United States' Minister at Constantinople to conclude this arrangement. It is of importance in the interests both of the Turkish Government and of the Armenians, and serious diplomatic complications may be averted by it.

As the Commission is already on its way, the immediate departure of the American Delegate is very necessary.

No. 350.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 531.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 23, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, forwarding copy of a private letter containing information respecting the recent massacres of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 350.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, November 17, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith certain information respecting the recent events in the Vilayet of Moush contained in a private letter received by me from Sivas, and which may be of interest, especially if it confirms the reports furnished to your Excellency at the time from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 350.

Letter from Sivas to Consul Cumberbatch.

(Extract.) *November 10, 1894.*

MY information is derived from a reliable man, who obtained his information from a variety of places, and mostly from the conversation of Turkish soldiers who took part in the affair.

The massacre took place in the district of Tahrig, which lies between Moush and Diarbekir. It is an Armenian district, comprising thirty to forty villages, surrounded by Kurds. The Kurds have been in the habit of making frequent raids on these villages. There may have been half-a-dozen Armenian revolutionists in the district. At any rate, last year some Armenians armed themselves in self-defence, and resisted the Kurds. The Vali sent soldiers down there, killed a few Armenians, and was decorated for having wiped out a great rebellion.

This year there are said to have been more revolutionists in that region, perhaps ten to fifteen. A Kurdish Chief, in order to get out of some difficulties that he had got into, started the ball rolling by carrying off some cattle belonging to certain Armenians. The Armenians endeavoured to recover the cattle, and a fight followed, in which two Kurds were killed and three wounded. The Kurds immediately carried their dead to Moush and laid them down at the Government house, reporting that Armenian soldiers were overrunning the land killing and plundering them. This furnished the Government with the excuse for massing troops from far and near, in spite of the Cholera Regulations. The Circassian volunteers were ordered from here, but it is not sure whether they went. The Férik at Erzinghan hurried on with his men, followed soon after by the Moshir. The former is said to have carried with him an order from Constantinople which he read to the soldiers, in which they were ordered to cut the Armenians down root and branch, and adjuring them that if they loved the Sultan and their Government they would do so.

A terrible massacre followed. Between 5,000 to 10,000 Christians are said to have been butchered in a most horrible manner. Some soldiers say 100 fell to each one of them to dispose of, and others wept because the Kurds did more execution than they. No respect was shown to age or sex. Men, women, and infants were treated alike, except that the women were very often violated before they were slaughtered.

The details exceed in horror anything I have ever heard of in recent times. The women were not even granted the privilege of a life of slavery.

For example, in one place 300 or 400 women, after being forced to serve the vile purposes of a merciless soldiery, were taken to a valley near by and hacked to pieces with sword and bayonet.

In another place, about 200 women knelt before the Commander and begged for mercy, but the bloodthirsty wretch, after ordering their violation, directed the soldiers to dispatch them in a similar way.

Some sixty young brides—and more attractive girls—were crowded into a church in another village, where, after being violated, they were slaughtered, and a stream of human blood flowed from the church door.

In another place a large company, headed by the priest, fell down before the officers, saying they had nothing to do with the culprits, and begging for compassion, but all to no purpose—all were killed.

To some of the most attractive women in one place the proposition was made that they might be spared if they denied their faith. They refused and died.

At the close of this little comedy the Vali endeavoured to persuade and compel Armenians to sign a paper thanking His Majesty the Sultan and his Excellency the Vali that justice had been done to the rebels, and it is said that in some places the Armenians have signed.

No. 351.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 534.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 24, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 341 of the 5th instant, on the subject of the Narman prisoners, I have the honour to report that Mr. Block called on the Grand Vizier on the 22nd instant, and drew his attention to the case, suggesting at the same time that it might be advisable to instruct the Sassoon Commission to examine the matter as they pass through Erzeroum, in order that the innocent prisoners might be set at liberty, adding that if the matter got into the press there would be a further outcry, and an act of clemency would be useful to the Turkish Government.

His Highness at once communicated with the Commission on the subject, and I have instructed Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to draw their attention to it on their arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 352.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *Pera, November 25, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a Circular addressed to the Turkish Ambassadors at foreign Courts relative to the appointment of a Commission to proceed to the districts of Sassoon and Talori, which had been communicated to me and to the other Ambassadors, by the Foreign Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 352.

Circular addressed to Turkish Ambassadors at Foreign Courts.

MES communications précédentes vous ont fait savoir qu'à la suite des actes criminels commis par une foule d'insurgés Arméniens dans les districts de Sassoun et de Talouzie, des troupes régulières ont été envoyées sur les lieux pour châtier les coupables, et l'ordre et la tranquillité publique y sont rétablis. Mais ce qui est pénible à constater, c'est que des organes de la presse Européenne se laissant induire en

erreur par des suggestions malveillantes, publient des nouvelles imaginaires et contraires à la vérité.

En présence de cette inconcevable attitude le Gouvernement Impérial vient de décider d'envoyer sur les lieux une Commission d'Enquête composée de leurs Excellences le Général de Division, Abdoullah Pacha, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Souverain, le Directeur de la Caisse d'Épargne, Eunor Bey, le Premier Secrétaire du Bureau de la Correspondance du Ministère de l'Intérieur, Medjid Effendi, et de Hafviz Tevfik Pacha, Général de Brigade d'État-Major, à la suite de Sa Majesté.

Constantinople, le 23 Novembre, 1894.

No. 353.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 3.*)

(No. 540.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting the release of Armenian prisoners in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, November 15, 1894.*

DR. JEWETT informs me, in his letter from Sivas of the 6th instant, that most of the political prisoners at Marsovan, Amassia, and he believes at Tokat, are being released by courts-martial, whose sittings are also expected at Sivas.

He adds a remark made to him by the Proctor-General in that town to the effect that, in last year's amnesty Imperial pardon was sold by the officials, while this time the prisoners are summoned and immediately set free or remanded, according to the documentary evidence of guilt in hand.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 354.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 3.*)

(No. 541.)

My Lord, *Pera, November 26, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 201 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that, on receiving your telegram No. 99 A of the same date, I called yesterday morning upon Said Pasha at his private residence, and spoke to him at great length of the bad impression produced in London by the terms in which the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry into the events in the Bitlis Vilayet had been announced in the official Gazette. I impressed upon his Excellency as forcibly as I could that the only safe course for the Turkish Government was to authorize the Commission to make a fair and impartial inquiry; that failing this, they would be held responsible for the cruelties perpetrated on the Armenians by the local authorities, and that the feeling aroused in Europe was such that if those cruelties were not punished, active interference from without must be looked for. I pointed out that the statement now made, that the Commission was intended to inquire into the criminal conduct of Armenian brigands, was a total departure from the engagement, which his Excellency had taken with Her Majesty's Government on behalf of the Sultan, that a Commission would be sent to make inquiries into the occurrences in the Sassoon district, as well as into all the reports mentioned in the Memorandum sent by me to His Imperial Majesty on the 1st instant; that it would consist of trustworthy men, who would be sworn to give a true Report; that the inquiry would be carried out in a just and impartial manner, and that the guilty would be punished.

I intimated that if steps were not taken to satisfy Her Majesty's Government that the Sultan's promise would be fulfilled, they might find it necessary to claim a right under the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin to send Colonel Chermside to inquire into the treatment of the Armenians, and that they might also be forced to publish the Consular Reports from the Asiatic provinces, which had been so long withheld.

Throughout our conversation I spoke in a tone of friendly warning and advice, and left it to Said Pasha's discretion to make such use of my remarks as he might think best, when laying the matter before the Sultan. His Excellency made rather light of the announcement in the official paper, which he said was intended purely for home consumption, and as an answer to the attacks made on the Turkish Government in the foreign press. He held out no expectation of the announcement being made here in a different form, but expressed a hope that he might obtain authority from His Majesty to send to the Turkish Ambassador in London, for communication and publication, an explicit declaration that the inquiry would be an impartial one, and that the guilty, wherever they might be found, would be punished.

I received last evening a message from Said Pasha, stating that owing to the sudden death of Sureya Pasha, the Sultan's Chief Secretary, he had been unable to see His Majesty, and that it was doubtful whether he would be able to do so to-day. Should he fail in obtaining His Imperial Majesty's authority to make a satisfactory public declaration of the objects of the Mission, the point might perhaps be carried by conveying to the Sultan a formal intimation that, in default of it, the Reports of our Consuls in Asia Minor would be laid before Parliament. I am bound, however, to state that such an intimation would be regarded by the Sultan as a very hostile proceeding on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

With regard to the suggestion that Colonel Chermside should be sent on a mission of inquiry, I have no doubt that it would be resisted to the utmost, and I am of opinion that in the face of this resistance it would be practically impossible to carry it out.

It appears to me that if Her Majesty's Government intend seriously to intervene in the Armenian question, the only means of doing so with any prospect of success would be by an appeal to the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that to make such an appeal effectual, the support of other Powers, parties to the Treaty, should first be secured. There is even less chance now of England being able, single-handed, to improve the administration of Armenia than was the case in 1879 and subsequent years, when our efforts so hopelessly failed.

From the attitude which has recently been assumed here by the Russian Embassy, it appears not improbable that Russia would respond favourably to such an appeal, and the language of my French colleague leads me to believe that France would be likely to take the same course. Germany would no doubt refuse, as she has done on former occasions, and from Austria and Italy we should probably not meet with more than a half-hearted support.

It must not, however, be expected that even with the co-operation of all the Treaty Powers the reform of the administration of Asia Minor would be an easy task.

The Sultan, I am told, declared quite recently to a foreign Representative that nothing would induce him to introduce reforms into his Asiatic provinces, and it is not likely that he would yield without the employment of force. If the attempt were made without being carried through to a successful issue, the position of the Armenians would become even worse than it is at present, and the Power which had taken the initiative would suffer a serious loss of influence and prestige in the East.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 355.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 3.*)

(No. 542.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 518 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that, at the request of Said Pasha, I have returned to him the "Notice" from the Sublime Porte, dated the 8th November, accusing Mr. Hallward of inciting

the Armenians to sedition, and that his Excellency has returned to me the reply which I had sent to him on the 11th November.

Copies of both these documents, which are now to be regarded as cancelled, were forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 356.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 95. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 26, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter I have received from Major Law, inclosing a Memorandum on the Smyrna railways, and requesting authority to travel for the purposes of making a more detailed Report.

I shall be glad if your Lordship will inform me whether I may authorize Major Law to undertake these journeys at the public expense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 356.

Major Law to Sir P. Currie.

(Private.)
Dear Sir Philip Currie, *Beyrout, November 18, 1894.*

I INCLOSE you a Memorandum on the position of the Smyrna railways. I do not exactly know what your views may be, or what action you may have already thought advisable to take, but without the advantage of having heard your opinions on the questions involved, I note down what I have learned in the way of facts, and the impressions which have been produced in my mind.

I cannot but think that the French Syndicate would be glad to get out of their bargain, if they could find a way to do so, with even a minimum profit. The English Manager of the Cassaba line told me secretly that he was convinced that the Frenchmen, in undertaking the business, had not realized the difficulties of making the proposed Kara-hissar extension, and the large amount of capital which it would require. If his statements are correct, and I am fully inclined to believe them, the difficulties of the French Syndicate must be increased by the recent determination of Bardhe to hold his hand as regards encouraging further investment in Turkey. On the other hand the Aidin people can command capital, and if Purser is not too obstinate, they ought to be able to offer the Frenchman sufficiently satisfactory terms to induce them to withdraw.

I have not yet received any letters from Constantinople, so I am still without the financial details which I require to make a good start on the Financial Report, which I am anxious to commence. If I am to report seriously on the railways, I ought to make some journeys along the new rail-road routes, and I should be glad if you approve, to have your definite authority for the necessary travelling. Of course, before going anywhere, I should request your sanction to each separate expedition; but besides this, I think that to secure the refunding of travelling expenses, I should require a general permission to travel for the purposes of the Report, which I have received instructions to make.

I like the look of this place, but I have not yet seen much of it, having had a rather serious attack of my old fever on leaving Smyrna, and having thus arrived here in a somewhat feeble condition.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) E. Fg. LAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 356.

Memorandum on the Smyrna-Aidin and Smyrna-Cassaba Railways.

(Confidential.)

THE Smyrna-Aidin and Smyrna-Cassaba Railways were both founded with English money, the capital invested in the former being roughly 4,000,000*l.*, and the capital formerly invested in the latter having been approximately 1,600,000

The Casaba Railway having been bought up by a French Syndicate, is, as regards English interests and English capital, a finished concern. There remains the Smyrna-Aidin Company.

The interests of the investors of 4,000,000*l.* of British capital are an important consideration, but I am of opinion that larger interests than these are connected with the fortunes of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

No one can visit Smyrna without being struck by the hold which European and Christian (as opposed to Turkish) influence has acquired in this part of Turkey, a hold which, I am informed, extends for a long way into the interior of the country, and in which, mainly through the hitherto steadily increasing importance of the two English railways, the English have had an important share.

I am aware that it has often been said that, provided railways are made in Asia Minor, it does not matter by what nationality they are made. From the political point of view this may in the main be true, though the reflections caused by my observations at Smyrna would make me unwilling to accept such a statement without certain limitations.

From the commercial point of view I unhesitatingly say that it is of very great importance whether the railways in Turkey are constructed by English capital and by Englishmen, or by foreign capital and by foreigners.

If works are undertaken with English capital, the inevitable tendency is to employ Englishmen on them, and the inevitable result of employing Englishmen is that each individual acts, involuntarily, as a first-class commercial traveller promoting the consumption of British goods, not only by his preference for them for his own use, but by the opportunities of appreciating their quality which he gives to his neighbours, who, without such opportunities, would be likely to be deterred by the generally higher prices from trying them on their own account.

It must not be forgotten, also, that a considerable railway is in itself a very important customer for English manufactures. Every ton of steel rails in the 320 miles of the Aidin Railway has been imported from England, and will be replaced from England if the line remains in English hands.

The fifty odd locomotives and the 1,300 carriages and waggons are all of English manufacture, and the annual requirements for tools, instruments, small stores, and sundries, are all sources of profit to English trade.

From the moment the Casaba Railway passed into the hands of Frenchmen, the orders for supplies for that line were diverted to France, and if the Aidin Company fails to obtain their desired Concession for its extension, or, still worse, should be obliged to cede the existing line to foreigners, British trade will suffer a further loss.

Six years ago all the railways in Asia Minor were English concerns. The Ismidt-Angora line was the first to be lost, having been forcibly taken, and handed over to the Germans. Now the Cassaba has passed into the hands of a French Syndicate, and, finally, the arrangements made with the French Syndicate are most gravely threatening the position and very existence of the Aidin, the last of the English Companies.

The following brief sketch of the relative positions and prospects of the three railways, the Ismidt-Angora (Konieh Extension), the Cassaba, and the Aidin, will show how critical has become the position of the Aidin Company since the Concessions for extensions have been given to its rivals, whilst it cannot obtain permission to prolong its own line.

The main Smyrna-Aidin line is 231 miles long, and the various branches together give an additional 87 miles, making a total length of 321 miles. The line is fed by the traffic drawn from the most fertile districts and valleys lying inland from Smyrna; and has the special advantage of having occupied the only easy route by which railway communication from the west coast of Asia Minor can be pushed eastwards into Anatolia, and to the head waters of the Euphrates and Tigris. Commercially the Aidin Railway has hitherto proved successful, and respectable dividends have been paid on the share capital, besides the high interest of 5 per cent. and (on a portion) 6 per cent. paid on the large debenture issues, amounting to about 3,000,000*l.*

The Smyrna-Aidin and Smyrna-Cassaba lines have hitherto, and as far as their present respective inland termini, Diner and Alascher, been working in parallel districts, and have not entered into serious competition with one another. The Concession to the Cassaba of the prolongation to Kara-hissar, through Oukshak, will, however, bring this extension through a very important district, from which the Aidin now draws considerable traffic, and also by the connection to be effected with the Koniah Extension, the Cassaba will, conjointly with the latter, absorb the traffic of other districts through which it has been long the intention of the Aidin Company to prolong their road. A careful estimate shows a minimum loss of 80,000*l.* per annum to the Aidin line from the Cassaba Extension through Oushak, and coming at a period when the economical condition of the country is already unfortunately prejudicial to railway traffic Returns, such a loss must destroy all chance of dividends for the shares, and will also, in all probability, cause some default of interest on the later issues of bonds.

To this injury must be added the prospective loss arising from the Ismidt-Koniah Extension striking directly across the route of the proposed Aidin Extension. Reasonable hopes of considerable future profits had hitherto been anticipated from the natural prolongation of the Aidin road, but this future source of profits is now seriously compromised by the unexpected advantages which have been conferred on the rival German line. If the prolongation of the Cassaba to effect a junction with the Koniah railroad is really to be carried out, it would seem to be vital to the very existence of the Aidin road, that it should promptly be permitted to at least prolong its line to join the Koniah at Tchai, the natural and nearest point of junction.

As regards the Koniah Extension of the Ismidt line, it is clear that the prolongation of the Cassaba or Aidin Railways, to effect a junction with it, must to some extent prejudice its earning power, for much of the traffic from beyond that point would be sure to take the road to Smyrna for shipment in preference to the road to the Mavmora. As, however, the proposed junction with the Kassaba, at Kara-hissar, is within 20 miles of the proposed junction with the Aidin at Tchai, it must, as far as traffic is concerned, be a matter of indifference to the Koniah line which junction should finally be preferred. From what I can learn it is unlikely that the Koniah Extension will, under any circumstances, find sufficient paying traffic for a very long time to come, but this has of course been foreseen by the concessionnaires, who are nevertheless content, being guaranteed against loss by the kilometric subsidy.

It is difficult to see what the Cassaba line would gain by prolongation to Kara-hissar. The whole of the proposed route is difficult country, and the section between Oushak and Kara-hissar particularly so. This latter section passes through a very poor country, and can draw no traffic beyond what it may possibly take from the Koniah Extension. The district of Oushak is a rich one, and the prolongation to that point might pay (though at the expense of the existing Aidin line), but beyond Oushak, the expense of construction will be so great, and the returns so small, that expense can only be met by the kilometric guarantee that is at very [*sic*] charge to the Turkish Government. The minimum cost of construction from Alascher to Kara-hissar is estimated at 1,500,000*l.*, and it is more likely to reach 2,000,000*l.*, a very large sum on which to depend for interest on the Government guarantee.

From the point of view of the economical and financial interests of Turkey, there cannot be a moment's doubt that the most reasonable and profitable undertaking would be to prolong the Aidin line to Tchai, and to leave the Cassaba alone for the present, or, at least, not to prolong it beyond Tchai. The Aidin Company offer to prolong their line to Tchai without any Government guarantee, that is, without any present or future charge on Turkish revenues. The proposed Aidin Extension would cost only 750,000*l.*, and from the nature of the country to be traversed it is certain that it would produce more beneficial economical results than a Cassaba Extension to Kara-hissar, costing from 1,500,000*l.* to 2,000,000*l.*

The natural solution of all these difficulties would be the fusion of the Cassaba line with the Aidin, the dropping of the Kara-hissar extension, and the immediate prolongation of the Aidin to Tchai. At present, owing in part to personal susceptibilities, the prospects of an arrangement do not seem very bright, but the present position is so unsatisfactory to the pecuniary interests alike of the Turkish Government, the French Cassaba Syndicate, and the English Aidin Company, that time must convince all three parties that a new arrangement is almost a necessity.

(Signed) E. Fg. LAW.

Beyrout, November 18, 1894.

No. 357.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 547. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 27, 1894.

THE Spanish traveller, M. Ximenes, has recently returned to Constantinople from a tour in the Armenian provinces. He is, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, a man of considerable ability and wide information on Oriental matters, who travels ostensibly for scientific purposes. In 1892 he made, or professed to have made, a journey to Russian Central Asia and the Pamirs, which was reported at the time to the Foreign Office. He subsequently came to Constantinople, and through the influence, as it is said, of Shakir Pasha, the former Ottoman Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, got access to the Palace.

He was credited with receiving a regular salary on condition of not writing articles on Turkey in the foreign press, and was reported to have made for the Sultan a map of Afghanistan, for which he received 200*l.* In the early summer of this year he left for Asia Minor on some mission for the Turkish Government, who paid his expenses. He was accompanied by two officials of the Ministry of Police, and everywhere shown the greatest attention by the local authorities, except at Erzeroum, where he had a violent quarrel with the Military Commandant in consequence of the latter spying on his movements, and preventing him from taking photographs. He visited Yuzgat, and extended his travels at least as far as Mosul, where he devoted much attention to the Yezidi question, and then returned here through Northern Armenia.

Both during his journey and after his return, M. Ximenes has freely criticized the present system of government in Asia Minor. He declares that there is really no Armenian question, and that one is being created solely by the folly of Turkish officials; that the Hamidieh regiments are a source of permanent danger to Christian life and property, and that the Turks are really to blame for the recent Sassoon incident. His opinion on that matter is that the regular troops perpetrated a series of cruel outrages on defenceless Christians; that the whole responsibility really attaches to Zeki Pasha; and that the Commission that has just left will do nothing to elucidate the truth. He criticized the official version of the incident as most unworthy, improbable, and indiscreet, and denied that the Armenians had arms or even powder, or that they had attacked Moslem villages.

He says it is his intention to present a report to the Sultan under seven heads:—

1. Armenian affairs.
2. The Shamal.
3. The Yezidi.
4. Destitution and Emigration.
5. The Hamidieh Cavalry.
6. The military situation in Kurdistan.
7. General considerations and proposals.

To No. 1 will be attached the special annex treating of the Sassoon incident, which he intends to present personally to the Sultan.

I should add that Mr. Devey, the late Vice-Consul at Van, to whom I am indebted for the above particulars, does not think M. Ximenes' advocacy of the Armenian question sincere, and suspected him of trying to make capital by threatening revelations against Turkish officials.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 358.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 548. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 28, 1894.

THE Sultan received the German Ambassador in private audience last week, and spoke to him at length about the alleged massacres in Billis, the truth of which he entirely denied.

His Majesty gave his version of the affair, and said that the English Government was inclined to give credence to false reports. He expressed a hope that the German Emperor would use his influence with Her Majesty the Queen to prevent the question being raised by England.

On several other occasions the Sultan has sent messages in a similar sense to Prince Radolin. The Prince informs me that he has advised His Majesty to be more careful in the selection of Governors, but he has openly professed his disbelief in the excesses said to have been committed against the Armenians.

The Italian Ambassador offered me his support, and was good enough, at my suggestion, to urge upon the Porte the importance of an impartial inquiry into the Bitlis affair.

The French and Russian Embassies have, I understand, given similar advice, and the Russian Dragoman intimated to Mr. Block his belief that his Government would be ready to take up the question jointly with Her Majesty's Government.

The Austrian Ambassador has given me friendly information and advice, but does not himself take any action in regard to Armenian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 359.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 550.) *Constantinople, November 28, 1894.*

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to call your Lordship's attention to the appointment of Bahri Pasha as Vali of the Vilayet of Kharput or Mamuret-ul-Aziz, which was officially notified in the papers of the 25th instant.

He was successively Governor of Pera and Scutari, from both of which posts he was dismissed owing, as it was said, to his having a share in the gambling establishments of the town. He would have been brought to trial but for his strong influence at the Palace. He was subsequently Mutessarif of Denizli, in the Government of Smyrna, and of Pristina; at the latter of which places he had a very bad reputation.

His main claim to notoriety, however, is his relationship to the Kurdish Chief, Moussa Bey, whose trial for outrages committed on Armenians created such a sensation in 1889. He pretended that it was only his influence which had prevented this personage from rebelling against the Sultan, and hence stood high in His Majesty's favour. When the Courts issued an order for the arrest of Moussa Bey, he protested privately to the Sultan against the step, and when Moussa at last came to Constantinople, he received him in his house and treated him as an honoured guest.

He was removed from Scutari in consequence of the representations of the late Sir W. White, who informed the Grand Vizier, when it was proposed to name him to a post in Kurdistan, that such an appointment would not be tolerated. He speaks no European language, and was described by a high Turkish official as "without education and without honour."

Ennis Pasha, whom he replaces, is said to have been a kindly and well-meaning, though not very energetic, Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 360.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 3, 1894, 11·45 A.M.*

THE following are the terms in which I notified verbally through Mr. Block acceptance of the appointment of an American on the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry:

"The British Government have telegraphed to the Ambassador, stating that they were willing to accept in principle the appointment on the Bitlis Commission of an American functionary chosen by the American Minister on the understanding that Mr. Terrell is able to make a satisfactory selection, and that the functionary starts at once."

The appointment of an American was proposed to me by Said Pasha in substitution for that of the Erzeroum Consuls, which I had informally and privately suggested as a mode of dispelling the doubts which have been raised by the terms of the announcement in the official journal as to the impartiality of the Commission. If, at the present moment, I were to make a formal reservation, it would raise the suspicions of the Turkish Government as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and might cause the failure of the arrangement which we are negotiating.

As your Lordship will see, the terms of my communication notifying the acceptance of Said Pasha's proposal do not fetter the liberty of action of Her Majesty's Government except as to the nature of the supervision to be exercised over the Turkish Commission.

No. 361.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 3, 1894, 12·10 P.M.*

YESTERDAY morning General Blunt Pasha received a summons to the Palace, where he was asked whether he would be prepared to undertake a journey to Bitlis, and make an inquiry into the real state of affairs there on behalf of the Sultan.

Blunt Pasha, who had already applied for sick leave to visit the Riviera, was obliged to decline on grounds of health. He was to have made an inquiry quite independently of the Commission, and after spending three months in the Bitlis Vilayet he was, on his return, to have presented his report direct to the Sultan.

No. 362.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 3, 1894.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 210 of to-day.

It is essential that formal notification should be made to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government reserve to themselves entire liberty of action.

My despatch No. 378 of the 30th ultimo, containing the protest of Her Majesty's Government against the official announcement of the Commission of Inquiry, and reserving their liberty of action, should properly reach you to-morrow morning.

No time should be lost by you in communicating the despatch to Said Pasha in accordance with the instructions it contains, and you should inform his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government feel themselves obliged to insist on the above reservation, although they have accepted the Sultan's proposal that an American Delegate should be on the Commission, as providing a valuable guarantee for the impartial character of the inquiry to be made by it.

No. 363.

Mr. Goschen to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Washington, December 3, 1894.*

I HAVE duly communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 132 to Mr. Gresham.

In reply, he stated that the following telegram had been received on the 1st instant from Mr. Terrell, the United States' Minister at Constantinople:—

"His Majesty the Sultan would be glad to receive the approval of the President to a proposal he has made, that I should be authorized to send an American Delegate

with the Commission appointed to investigate the Armenian massacres. His Imperial Majesty is anxious that a Representative of a neutral Power should fill this office.

"I would propose Consul Jowett. His Imperial Majesty wishes for a reply before the 3rd instant."

This telegram had been answered as follows:—

"While appreciating the confidence of the Sultan, the President is unwilling to send Delegate."

In discussing Mr. Terrell's communication, Mr. Gresham observed, neither he nor the President had had any idea that the appointment of an American Delegate would be agreeable to England; on the contrary, they had thought that such a proceeding might embarrass Her Majesty's Government, particularly as they knew no one at Constantinople to whom such a delicate mission could be intrusted. Their conviction on this point was, he added, strengthened by your Lordship's requirements as to the qualities of the Delegate selected.

In reply to a question from me as to whether, now that he knew of the importance attached to the proposed arrangement by Her Majesty's Government, he would not reconsider the matter, he answered that he could not do so, as the Sultan had already received the President's reply, and he added that, as a matter of fact, the President objected very strongly to interfering in this question.

No. 364.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 4, 1894, 12:30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 100.

Owing to non-arrival to-day of mails from England, I shall not be able to execute your instructions till to-morrow.

No. 365.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 4, 1894.

I HAVE not received from your Excellency copies of the Decrees mentioned in your telegram No. 200 of the 23rd ultimo, which refer to the bestowal of decorations on Zeki Pasha and the Mufti of Moosh, and the dismissal of the Mutessarif; nor am I in possession of any information as to the reasons given for these decisions.

As this information constitutes an important feature in the case, I shall be glad to receive it as soon as possible.

No. 366.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 4, 1894.

HER Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington telegraphs that the United States' Government decline to sanction the appointment of an American Delegate on the Commission of Inquiry, that their refusal has already been communicated to the Sultan, and that any interference in the matter is strongly deprecated by the President of the United States.

Under these circumstances, your Excellency should act on your previous instructions, and place yourself forthwith in communication with the Representatives of France and Russia, with a view to a joint inquiry being conducted by the Consuls of the three Powers at Erzeroum.

No. 367.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 1·10 A.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 110, I find that the transfer of the Mutessarif of Moush was announced in the papers of the 18th October. The Notice conferring the decoration of the Imtiaz on Zeki for faithful and zealous services was published in the local press on the 24th September, and that conferring the third class of the Medjidieh on the Mufti of Moush on the 21st November.

No. 368.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 214.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 1 A.M.

CONSUL BARNHAM telegraphs from Aleppo that he has been informed by the Governor-General of the release of Mr. Beheneslian and his party, and their return to Tarsus.

Mr. Barnham says he has good reason for expecting serious troubles at Zeitoun or Marash, where he believes that the Government is preparing a terrible blow against the Armenians. Owing, however, to his having no Consular Agent in that district, he is unable to ascertain the truth.

Mr. Barnham promises me a full report by post on the 7th instant.

I shall inform my French and Russian colleagues of this, and shall lose no time in conveying a warning to the Palace and the Porte.

No. 369.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 12·45 P.M.

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram No. 111, I this morning called on my French and Russian colleagues and sounded them confidentially as to whether their respective Governments would empower their Consuls at Erzeroum to join with our Consul in making a separate and independent investigation into the events in the Bitlis Vilayet.

The French Ambassador and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires both promised to telegraph at once to their Governments.

M. Cambon seemed to doubt whether, unless a larger number of the Powers were represented, his Government, which had no special interest in the question, would be willing to interfere.

M. Jadowsky, though he had no definite information of the views of his Government, was, personally, more encouraging. He said that he was in receipt of official reports fully confirming Mr. Hallward's despatches.

M. Cambon said that his private information was of a similar nature, but, with the exception of a report from a Consular Agent at Diarbekir, he had heard nothing from official sources.

As instructed in your Lordship's telegram No. 104 of the 30th ultimo, I have communicated to both Representatives the despatches I have received from Mr. Graves and Mr. Hallward.

No. 370.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 1·30 P.M.

MR. TERRELL informs me that the President declines to authorize the appointment of an American on the Turkish Commission, though at the same time fully appreciating such a mark of confidence on the part of the Sultan as was shown in the request made to him by His Imperial Majesty.

No. 371.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 217.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 2·45 P.M.

SAID PASHA has just called on me. He came to propose that, as the plan of the American functionary had fallen through, either Blunt Pasha or Woods Pasha should be added to the Commission, or else an English officer, who should be named Aide-de-camp of His Imperial Majesty for the occasion. I gave his Excellency no hope of this proposal being entertained, but he insisted on my telegraphing it home.

No. 372.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 218. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 4·50 P.M.

THE late Mutessarif of Moush, before his removal from his post, addressed to the Ministry of the Interior a telegram defending the Sassoon Armenians against the charges brought against them. I have obtained a copy of it from a secret source. The Mutessarif in it protests against the employment of armed forces against the Armenians, refuses to share the responsibility of such action, and begs, if he is not listened to, to be relieved of his duties.

I will send copy of this telegram by next messenger.

No. 373.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 4·40 P.M.

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram No. 109, I have to-day read your despatch No. 378 to Said Pasha, at the same time handing his Excellency a copy of it. I stated that Her Majesty's Government were obliged to reserve their full liberty of action, though they had been willing to accept the proposed appointment of an American functionary as offering a valuable security for the impartiality of the Commission.

No. 374.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 5·50 P.M.

I SENT Mr. Block to the Palace this morning to deliver to the Sultan, through His Majesty's Chief Secretary, the following message respecting the reports that had reached me about Zeitoun:—

"Most disquieting intelligence having reached the British Embassy about Zeitoun, where it is reported that preparations are being made by the authorities for striking a terrible blow at the Armenians, the Ambassador considers himself in duty bound to bring to the notice of His Imperial Majesty this news, the gravity of which cannot be exaggerated."

The Grand Vizier and Said Pasha, who happened to be at the Palace, sent for Mr. Block and questioned him about this communication.

In spite of their both professing complete ignorance, the Grand Vizier seemed to betray that he knew that some action was intended in the Zeitoun district by exclaiming that he presumed that I did not maintain that in case of rebellion the Turkish Government was not at liberty to chastise the guilty. His Highness, however, promised to have inquiries made.

I spoke to Said Pasha myself this afternoon on the subject, and I also mentioned the matter to the French and Russian Representatives.

It is worthy of remark that Sassoon and Zeitoun are the only two districts where the Armenians carry arms, and are in the habit of making active resistance to the tax-collectors and the Kurds.

No. 375.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 6 P.M.

THE following information has reached me from a trustworthy source:—

The Turkish Government has induced Mgr. Hmayak, the *locum tenens* of the Armenian Patriarch, to withdraw the resignation which he had sent in, and to summon a meeting of all the Armenian Bishops for the 7th instant to make arrangements for convoking the National Assembly by which a Patriarch is to be elected.

No. 376.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 5, 1894, 11·55 P.M.

I HAVE just had another visit from Said Pasha, who informs me of the Sultan's willingness to accept the nomination of a British Consular officer on the Commission.

His Excellency suggested Mr. Graves and Mr. Shipley, who are both at Erzeroum at the present moment, as persons who might be selected.

No. 377.

Mr. Goschen to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Washington, December* 5, 1894.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 132, I have the honour to report that, on reconsideration of the matter, the President has caused instructions to be sent to the United States' Consul at Constantinople to accompany the Turkish Commission to investigate the Armenian massacres. He is to draw up an independent Report, of which Her Majesty's Government and that of the Sultan will be furnished with a copy.

No. 378.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 5, 1894.*

SIR P. CURRIE has asked the French and Russian Representatives at Constantinople in confidence this morning whether their respective Governments would authorize their Consular officers at Erzeroum to join in an independent inquiry into the events which have recently occurred in the Sassoon district.

His Excellency was assured by both his colleagues that they would lose no time in consulting their Governments.

No. 379.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 5, 1894.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 214 of to-day, relative to the threatened outbreak of troubles in the districts of Zeitoun and Marash, and I approve the action which your Excellency proposes to take in the matter.

No. 380.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 5, 1894.*

SAÏD PASHA'S proposal contained in your Excellency's telegram No. 217 of to-day relative to the Bitlis Commission would in no way be satisfactory, and cannot be accepted by Her Majesty's Government. I am glad that you did not hold out any hope to his Excellency that it would be entertained.

No. 381.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 6, 1894, 5·15 P.M.*

MR. TERRELL, in communicating to me the telegram which formed the substance of my immediately preceding telegram, said that, when he read it to the Grand Vizier, His Highness had expressed himself unable to give any definite answer to the offer of the American Government on the ground that a new proposal was now before the English Government.

Mr. Terrell doubted whether the Turkish Government would assent to such an independent investigation as that proposed by the United States.

No. 382.

The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.[a]

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 6, 1894.*

THE manner in which the Turkish Government have publicly notified the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry into the reports of horrible massacres in the Bitlis Vilayet has made it incumbent upon Her Majesty's Government to address a protest to the Sublime Porte. The inquiry was, by anticipation, deprived of the necessary character of impartiality and completeness owing to the announcement that the Commission was to inquire into the acts of the Armenian brigands.

[a] Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 64), Sir Clare Ford (No. 58), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 112), and Sir E. Monson (No. 38).

A proposal has now been made by the Sultan for the appointment on the Commission of a British Consular officer.

Great Britain, France, and Russia alone being represented at Erzeroum by Consular officers, Sir P. Currie has been requested to communicate this proposal to the French and Russian Representatives at Constantinople, and to inform them that Her Majesty's Government are inclined to consent that the British Consul should join the Commission, provided that he is allowed to examine witnesses, and to make a separate report to Her Majesty's Government, who will communicate it to the Powers and the Porte. Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will ask his French and Russian colleagues to suggest to their Governments that they also should urge the Sultan to allow their Consular Representatives at Erzeroum to accompany the Commission in the same manner as the British Consul.

The first step, as your Excellency will perceive, is to procure reliable information as regards the events that have occurred in the Sassoon district. You should communicate the substance of this telegram to the Government to which you are accredited, stating that the co-operation of as many of the Great Powers as possible in this process will be welcomed by Her Majesty's Government, but that at the present stage, from considerations of practical convenience and under the pressure of time, they have only considered it necessary to request those Powers who are represented by Consuls at Erzeroum to send those officers to join the Commission of Inquiry. You should add that Her Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the power of appealing, for their judgment, to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, when they are in possession of the authoritative information now being sought.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has on his own initiative asked for the presence of an American Delegate with the Commission, and the United States' President has expressed his readiness to nominate for that purpose the American Consul at Constantinople.

No. 383.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 6, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 222 of the 6th instant, reporting Saïd Pasha's proposal for the appointment of a British Consular officer on the Bitlis Commission.

You should communicate this new proposal to the Russian and French Representatives at Constantinople, and inform them that Her Majesty's Government are inclined to agree to the Commission being accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, on the clear understanding that he is at liberty himself to examine the witnesses who appear, and to send home a separate and independent report, which will be communicated to the Turkish Government and the other Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin by Her Majesty's Government.

You should suggest to your French and Russian colleagues that their respective Governments should also urge that the Commission should be accompanied by their Consular officers at Erzeroum in the same manner.

You should also inform the American Minister, and tell him that Her Majesty's Government have heard with pleasure of the instructions now issued by the President of the United States, and reported by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington in his telegram No. 137, which I have just repeated to your Excellency.

No. 384.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 6, 1894.*

BEFORE replying definitively to the proposal that a British Consular officer should join the Bitlis Commission, Her Majesty's Government think it right to consult other Powers with whom we have been in communication on the subject;

but, in the meantime, you may tell the Porte that Her Majesty's Government are inclined to agree that the Commission should be accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the conditions which I have communicated to you in my telegram No. 115 of to-day, but must defer an answer for the reason I have mentioned.

No. 385.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 388 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1894.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and informed me that he was instructed to convey to me a proposal that a British Consular officer should be placed on the Commission sent to inquire into the occurrences in the Sassoon district.

I said I had already received a telegram to the same effect from your Excellency. It had been decided to reply that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to agree that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum should accompany the Commission, provided it were clearly understood that he should have the right of addressing inquiries to the witnesses, and of making an independent report to Her Majesty's Government which would be communicated to the Porte and to the other Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. But I added that your Excellency was in communication with your French and Russian colleagues, with a view to the Consuls of those Powers at Erzeroum joining in the inquiry, and that we must await the result of these communications before giving a definitive reply. We had also heard that the President of the United States had, on reconsideration, directed that a Consul of the United States should accompany the Commission, and draw up an independent report.

His Excellency said that the latter information had not reached him, and that the proposal for the appointment of a British Consul on the Commission was intended to be in substitution of the previous proposal to appoint an American functionary.

His Excellency added that he learnt with the greatest regret that Her Majesty's Government had appealed to other Powers. He strongly urged that we should refrain from this step, but I said that the matter had been carefully considered, and that no other course was now open to us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 386.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 389.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1894.

I HAVE received with regret the information contained in your despatch No. 550 of the 28th ultimo as to the appointment of Bahri Pasha to be Vali of Kharput.

I request your Excellency to express to the Grand Vizier, without loss of time, the great regret with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the appointment to such a post of a man who bears so evil a reputation, pointing out that the fact that he was removed from Seutari on the representation of Sir W. White, who also strongly protested against his employment in Kurdistan, gives peculiar gravity to his selection, especially at the present juncture.

A report has reached me that he has been suspended, and I trust that this will be followed by the revocation of the appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 387.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 390.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 534 of the 24th ultimo, reporting the result of your representations on behalf of the Narman prisoners so long detained at Erzeroum; and I have to express my satisfaction at learning that an inquiry into this matter will be made by the Sassoon Commissioners on their way through Erzeroum.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 388.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 391.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1894.

I HAVE learnt with satisfaction the release of certain Armenian prisoners in the Vilayet of Sivas, announced in the Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, a copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 540 of the 26th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 389.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 554.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 1, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 448 of the 3rd October, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dwight, of the American Mission, stating that the question of a site for the erection of a church for Protestant worship at Ordou has been satisfactorily settled in consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 389.

Rev. H. Dwight to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Constantinople, December* 1, 1894.

IT will be a pleasure to your Excellency, doubtless, as it has been to us, to learn by a letter of the 21st November from Ordou that the question of the right of worship for the Greek Protestants of that place has been settled, at least, in principle.

The Defterdar of the province, by order of the Governor or General, has visited Ordou, has brushed aside captious objections raised against sites for the proposed Protestant church, and has secured the approval of the local authorities to a site which the Protestants deem satisfactory.

The application for a Firman to build a church thereon has been made.

This advance towards the settlement of a vexed question is due to your Excellency's kind efforts, and I beg to express something of the gratitude felt by the members of the Evangelical Alliance for these effective efforts.

I delayed writing this note, in hopes of learning that the school question had also been settled. But the Defterdar did not like to take the responsibility of authorizing the school to be held in the parsonage. Thus, this important matter still awaits the orders of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY O. DWIGHT,
Honorary Secretary.

No. 390.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 557. Confidential.)
Constantinople, December 3, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 539 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, inclosing a letter from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir respecting the recent massacres at Sassoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 390.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, November 23, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a private letter which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir on the subject of the massacres in Sassoon.

The version given by Mr. Boyajian as current in Diarbekir differs mainly from Mr. Hallward's account in ascribing the principal part in the massacre to the Kurds, and a very minor share to the regular troops; but the story of the disguising of some of the latter in Kurdish dress before attacking the Armenians of Talori is also to be found in Mr. Hallward's report, as well as in the account given in my Confidential despatch of the 13th ultimo.

The Hamidiyé irregulars of the Haidaranli tribe, mentioned by Mr. Boyajian as helping to bring the total of Kurds engaged to over 10,000 men, took no part in the operations, but were sent back from Moush to their own district by Zeki Pasha, presumably in consequence of your Excellency's representations to the Porte. I am inclined to believe that this figure of 10,000 Kurds is very much above the truth.

On the other hand, the number of victims, estimated by Mr. Boyajian at 3,000 to 4,000, though inferior to the estimate given by Mr. Hallward in his earlier despatches, is in complete agreement with the most trustworthy information which has reached Erzeroum, and may, I think, be taken as fairly accurate.

I may mention that, in a private letter dated the 14th November, Mr. Hallward informed me that he has ascertained that a larger number of fugitives succeeded in escaping than he at first reported, and that his estimate of the number of Armenians killed must be proportionately reduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 390.

Vice-Consul Boyajian to Consul Graves.

(Private.)
Diarbekir, October 29, 1894.

Dear Mr. Graves,

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant.

The detailed accounts of the excesses committed by the Kurds in the Talori affair, if one can rely upon what one hears in the bazaars and from private individuals, are too painful to repeat, but comparing notes with what I could obtain from more reliable sources, it appears that the number of victims massacred may be put down at between 3,000 and 4,000; and besides the seven villages of Talori nine or ten other villages (Armenian) have been entirely looted and destroyed.

As to the most brutal atrocities committed by the Kurdish hordes upon the defenceless women and children, perhaps the less said the better. The date when these excesses were committed ranges, as I understand, from the 7th to the 22nd August [? old style, or 19th August to 3rd September.—R. W. G.].

After a careful inquiry, I am convinced that the Mushir during the massacre was not present at the places where atrocities occurred. There was, I believe, one battalion of infantry there about; whether they actually took part in the affair I cannot say, as it is stated that they did so in disguise; but this statement cannot easily be verified.

With regard to the opinion expressed concerning the whole affair by Zeki Pasha, which I have gathered from three independent and, to my thinking, reliable sources, it is what I stated in my last letter, namely, that his Excellency considers the Vali of Bitlis and the Mutessarif of Genj responsible for all these disturbances, and, as I am told, he reported it so to Constantinople. It remains to be seen what steps will have to be taken by central authorities.

The men who played the principal rôle in the affair were, I am told, the Sheikhs of Zilan and Dudan, Gendjo and Khalil of Sassoon; Eumer, the Chief of the Bekiran tribe; another Chief of the Charabi tribe, and the brother of the first-named Sheikh, Molla Djami.

With the exception of two Kurdish Chiefs who were, I am told, friendly to the Armenians, no one has, up to this, been arrested.

The number of Kurds who took part in the affair is stated to be more than 10,000, besides the Haidaran Hamidiés, who were 500 men, and were composed of different tribes, almost all Murids [disciples—R. W. G.] of the Sheikh of Zilan, who is, I am told, always preaching war against the Armenians.

The Kurds are anxiously waiting to see if the Government will call to account those who were the authors of these atrocities; if, contrary to expectation, they are let go without such punishment as they deserve there are reasons to fear still more serious trouble.

August 30.—I have just been informed that Gendjo, of Sassoon, and, as above stated, one of the principal actors in the Talori tragedy, in company with a large number of his followers, made a raid upon a small Armenian village an hour's ride from Hazo. After laying hands upon all belonging to the people, he seized the Mukhtar and was going to kill him, when the priest, an old man, interfered, and begged Gendjo to spare the life of the poor man.

Meanwhile the Mukhtar disappeared, upon which Gendjo, being exasperated, drew his dagger and stabbed the poor priest, who fell dead there and then.

The ruffian then threatened the Armenians of Hazo, the chief place of the Caza (of Sassoon), while another tribe of Kurds, having a grudge against Gendjo on account of his not allowing them to have their share of the pillage of Talori, are now in large numbers occupying the said place under the pretext of protecting the Armenians, but in fact, ruining them. This all happened within the last ten days.

Yours truly,
(Signed) T. BOYAJIAN.

No. 391.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 558.)
Constantinople, December 3, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a Report which he has received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the state of the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 391.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Erzeroum, November 21, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, in which Mr. Hallward gives a variety of information as to the present unsatisfactory condition of the Bitlis Vilayet, from observations made during his recent journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 391.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Van, November 10, 1894.

Sir,

ON my late visit to Moush I was struck by the extreme poverty of many of the villages in the plain, which exists in spite of the natural advantages of a rich soil and abundance of water. The great majority of them, numbering nearly 100, are Armenian, while a certain proportion, chiefly at the south-east end and along the edges of the mountain on either side of the plain, are Kurdish. A few are mixed, Kurdish and Armenian.

The two principal and permanent causes of the poverty of the Armenian villages are the Kurds and the tithe-farmers, against whom little redress is afforded by the Government. The Kurds, as is well known, have little aptitude for agriculture, as a proof of which I may mention that a Moslem Notable of Bitlis, who owns a village near the Moush Plain, removed the Kurdish villagers and put in Armenians in their place, as he found that the former paid little attention to the cultivation of the soil, and it consequently paid him better to have Armenian farmers who were willing to work. In default of agricultural occupations, the Kurds, as elsewhere, employ themselves in robbing their Christian neighbours. Complaints to Government produce little effect beyond exposing the complainants to the vengeance of the Kurds.

The tithe-farming system gives occasion for gross abuses, and the tithes of late years have increased in inverse proportion to the wealth of the peasants. When a village is sold, the buyer sends horsemen to superintend the collecting of the grain, and they remain there sometimes a month or more at the expense of the villagers. Occasionally the latter pay a sum of money down to the tithe-farmers in order to be freed from the expense and trouble caused by his men.

These grievances are not of course of recent date, but they have become greatly aggravated of late years. In this and every other part of this country which I have visited the wealth and well-being of the Christians have much declined since the last Russo-Turkish war. A Turkish zaptieh, who has been for thirty years in the service of the Government, told me, as practical proof of this, that whereas in former times ten or fifteen horsemen could always obtain in plenty all the food they wanted for themselves and their horses in any Armenian village, nowadays one horseman can sometimes scarcely obtain barley for his horse. Wheat is now comparatively scarce, as the peasants cannot afford to buy the seed, and inferior sorts of grain are grown, such as "dari" and "gheudgul" (which latter I have never seen except in the Moush Plain), from which a very unpalatable sort of bread is made. The general insecurity of life and property discourages the peasants, and except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town they only produce enough grain to pay the taxes and keep body and soul together till the next harvest.

To add to the general increase of poverty locusts appeared this year in some villages in the Moush district, and did considerable damage.

I spent ten days in quarantine at Avzout, a village with a mixed population of Kurds and Armenians, in the Plain of Moush, near the village of Khivnir (or Khevian), where Moussa Bey (see Blue Book "Turkey No. 1, 1890") formerly resided, and where some of his family still live. On the 21st October, at about 9 P.M., I heard two gun-shots in the village; next morning I found that an Armenian, named Krikor, had been shot dead by the son of a Kurd, named Selim Bey, who lives in the village, and is a cousin of Moussa Bey. The Head of the gendarmerie of Moush had arrived the day before with some prisoners on his way to Bitlis, and was performing quarantine at Selim's Bey's house at the time of the murder. When I left four days after the corpse was still waiting to be examined previous to burial. There was no particular motive for the crime as far as I could ascertain; the same young man shot another Armenian in the same village last year.

Two years ago a zaptieh was shot in this village by an Armenian who had taken refuge there, but did not belong to the village. He was immediately shot down by another zaptieh; a force of zaptiehs and some Kurds from neighbouring villages subsequently came there, and rifled the village and ill-treated many of the women. Thirty-six of the villagers were arrested, and nine condemned to various terms of imprisonment. A teacher named Marcar from the village of Vartennis was also arrested, accused of the murder, condemned to death on the evidence of zaptiehs, and hanged in Bitlis last February.

The state of the Vilayet of Bitlis is highly unsatisfactory in every respect. The Vali, Hassan Tahsin Pasha, who has been there for three years, has for some time past chiefly occupied himself with filling his own pockets at the expense of the population, for which purpose the "Armenian question" serves as a convenient instrument. Armenians are thrown into prison or threatened with imprisonment on the most frivolous charges, and released on payment of money, or detained if they cannot or will not pay what the Vali demands. This system is applied all over the vilayet; thus, a zaptieh told me he was sent to arrest a well-to-do Armenian at Gop (Boulanik district), and after some haggling on payment of £ T. 300 he was immediately released; and he said he knew of many such cases even in the villages, small sums being taken where larger ones were not forthcoming.

I may mention another case also at Gop, which occurred last winter. A certain Shukri Effendi, a Government official, was passing the night in an Armenian's house, and was accidentally suffocated by charcoal fumes. A military doctor who was called in reported to that effect, but a relation of the deceased disinterred the corpse, inflicted wounds on it, and got another doctor to certify that the death was caused by violence. For this four Armenians are now in prison, an attempt to extort money from them having failed.

A certain Khalil Effendi, now Mayor of Bitlis, was Acting Kaimakam at Gop for some time, and extorted considerable sums from Armenians on the pretext that they were wanted at Bitlis on charges of sedition, and that it would be cheaper for them to pay up at once rather than be sent there.

In Bitlis a merchant wrote a letter to his agent in Persia asking the price of raw silk, and whether the tendency of prices was upwards or downwards. The letter was opened at the Post Office, and the man was asked what he meant by his letter. He offered to call witnesses to prove that for years past he had traded in raw silk, but he was put in prison, and eventually got out on payment of £ T. 115.

A certain Ohannes Aga from Gheghi, in the Erzeroum Vilayet, and his brother, who was a lawyer in Erzeroum, were wanted in Bitlis on some charge. They were confined in prison for some months, and were then let out on payment of some £ T. 300, but were not allowed to leave the town.

Nestorians from Sairt and else where have suffered similarly, and the Moslems are said to be very dissatisfied with the present régime, though I do not know whether they have also been blackmailed by the Vali.

Houses are frequently searched, and books and papers seized and the owners arrested; sometimes no specific charge is made, but they are given to understand that they will not be released unless a certain sum is forthcoming.

Last year £ T. 7,000 were sent to the Vali to buy corn for the poor. An Armenian had lent him £ T. 1,500 on a mortgage of his house in Constantinople. The Vali gave the Armenian a contract to supply 30,000 measures of corn at 27½ piastres, the market price being 22½ piastres, *i.e.*, 5 piastres profit on each measure, making a total of 150,000 piastres, by which the debt was paid.

Grain is now again dear, and there is a fresh prospect of considerable distress this winter, both in the town and in the villages. A large number of workmen from the villages near Bitlis obtained "tezkérés" to go to Constantinople, but were stopped and turned back, some from Erzeroum, and others from Trebizond. This means a considerable loss of money to poor men; they had hoped to earn a good deal at house-building in Constantinople in consequence of the demand for labour caused by the earthquake. A number of women applied for passports in order to join their husbands in Constantinople, but were refused.

One result of the prevailing poverty is that the villagers fall into the hands of usurers, and get hopelessly into debt, 8 per cent. per month being sometimes taken from them as interest on loans.

Great complaints are made against the state of the prisons and the way prisoners are treated there. The lower part of the prison of Bitlis, in which some of the political prisoners are kept, is said to be very damp, dirty, and unhealthy, and several prisoners have died either from the unsanitary state of the prison or from the treatment which they received there. It is said that torture is frequently applied, but such charges are impossible to verify without opportunities for minute investigation. Cases have, however, I believe, occurred in which prisoners, on being confronted with a discrepancy between their evidence given in the preliminary investigation and that given in Court, have bared their breasts to show marks of branding made in order to extract their first evidence.

There are forty-eight political or quasi-political prisoners in Bitlis, and thirty to forty in Moush. The Bishop of Moush is undergoing a sentence of five years'

imprisonment at Bitlis on a conviction for seditious practices. The Bishopric of Bitlis has been vacant for some time; the post is not much sought after by Armenian ecclesiastics, I believe.

A short time before my arrival a young man named Mousheikh Matosian was imprisoned for the following reason: A handkerchief, on which a threat of murder was written, was found in the garden of a certain Joomas Effendi, an Armenian from Diarbekir, who acts as an agent for the Government in denouncing Armenians; search was then made in the bazaars to see where the handkerchief was bought, and similar goods having been found in the shop of Mousheikh, he was arrested, and charged with a criminal offence. His case has not yet been tried.

The district of Boulanik, which comprises the Cazas of Melazguird and Gop, in the Sandjak of Moush, and is one of the principal grain-growing districts in the country, has suffered as much as any other from the Kurds, who have been enrolled in large numbers as Hamidiés. About two months ago an Armenian girl was carried off from her father's house in the village of Shirvan Sheikh, in the Gop Caza, by Hassananli Kurds. Troops were sent to chastise them lately, and killed several of them, and also carried off a good many sheep and cattle. The girl, however, has not been recovered, or had not when I was in Bitlis. This is, I believe, the first serious attempt that has been made to punish the Kurds for their misdeeds since their enrolment in Hamidié regiments.

I proceeded from Bitlis to Akhlet. The Kaïmakam, Ibrahim Bey, a nephew of Raouf Pasha, late Vali of Bitlis, who was very popular there, had left on leave, and was not expected to return. Thence I went to Adeljevaz, a caza in the Van Vilayet; here the Haideranli Kurds, who haunt the neighbourhood of Mount Sipan, give a great deal of trouble. A large number of Armenian families have left this district for Persia. They are mostly very poor people, as they do not generally leave their homes as long as they can gain a living. I heard of one case of a well-to-do Armenian who had also emigrated to Persia. Reshid Bey, the Kaïmakam, is himself a Kurd, and therefore not disposed to be very hard on his co-nationalists; some stolen corn which the zaptiehs recovered from Kurds he restored to the latter. At the same time he does not seem to be unpopular or to be considered a bad type of official. The Bishop of Adeljevaz has been in prison for some months in Van; he went round to collect supplies for his monastery from the villages, and was accused of carrying on a political propaganda. The evening of my arrival some Turks fired into the house of an Armenian Government employé, but did not do any damage.

I passed through the Kurdish village of Karakhan, at the head of the eastern arm of the lake; a Turk from Van had been found throttled a short time before near there; he had started to go to Arjish with some Kurds on business, and was robbed and murdered on the way. No arrest had been made.

Two or three weeks ago, at the village of Bogaz Kesson, a few hours from Van, an Armenian and a Yezeedi were shot dead by Kurds, who stole a large number of sheep which they had with them.

In the district of Shemdinan, in Hekkiari, a brigand named Abd-el-Kader was shot dead by zaptiehs on the 23rd ultimo, and his son Mohammed and son-in-law Arab were wounded and taken prisoners, together with his cousins Kassim and Derrish. Some oxen which they had stolen from Kurds were restored to the owners. This was done by order of the Grand Vizier.

Several Kurdish Chiefs, mostly Hamidié officers, are now in Van, having come by order of the Vali. Among them are Emin Pasha and Hussein Pasha and Derbaz Aga, who, as Mr. Devey reported, bears an execrable reputation; the same may fairly be said of the two Pashas, who have both formerly been in prison here, and have since committed many crimes. The Vali is advising them to behave themselves, and not to molest Armenians in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 392.

Anglo-Armenian Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received December 7.*)

3, *Plowden Buildings, London, December 7, 1894.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of an appeal which has to-day been addressed to the Ambassadors of Russia, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy in London.

In asking you to lay this appeal before the Earl of Kimberley, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, I am desired by the members of this Association to impress upon Her Majesty's Government the special obligations of Great Britain to the Armenians of Turkey under the terms of the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS SEYMOUR STEVENSON.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Les Arméniens de la Turquie sous le Traité de Berlin.

Un Appel aux Grandes Puissances, Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

PAR l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'engage à réaliser sans plus de retard les améliorations et les réformes qu'exigent les besoins locaux dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens, à garantir leur sécurité contre les Kurdes et les Circassiens, et à donner connaissance périodiquement des mesures prises à cet effet aux Puissances qui en surveilleront l'application.

Par cela Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan reconnaît indubitablement, et les Grandes Puissances, en pleine connaissance des faits, témoignent de l'état anormal des Arméniens sujets de l'Empire Ottoman. Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent dans leur sollicitude à mettre terme aux griefs des Arméniens en leur garantissant la justice, la sécurité, et les réformes indispensables.

Seize ans se sont écoulés depuis ce Traité que les Arméniens avaient salué comme un nouvel emblème de justice et de prospérité, mais qui n'a été pour eux qu'une nouvelle source de terreur et de destruction. Le pillage et l'incendie des biens et des villages; les outrages et les violations; l'oppression et les persécutions; la prison et les tortures; l'exil et les exécutions; les massacres des jeunes et des vieillards, des femmes, et des enfants—tel continue d'être l'état de terreur des infortunés Arméniens dans l'intérieur de la Turquie. Témoins les événements de Van, Erzeroum, Arabker, Césarée, Tokat, Mouche, Angora, Bitlis, Yozgat, Sassoun, sans énumérer les nombreux cas isolés que se répètent périodiquement dans les villages et autres petites localités. La justice travestie et la force publique abusée ont servi à absoudre et à récompenser les criminels et les oppresseurs et à récriminer et châtier les innocents et les opprimés. Les procès de Moussa Bey et d'Angora ne sont qu'une triste illustration de bien d'autres dont l'écho est étouffé avant de pénétrer le monde civilisé. Un nombre très considérable de prêtres et de moines, de Notables, et de personnes de toutes les conditions dépérit sans merci et sans espoir de justice dans les cachots des forteresses et des prisons. Les Arméniens qui se rendent en Europe et en Amérique pour y gagner leur vie sont à leur retour détenus dans les ports et bannis de leurs familles et de leur patrie. Les milliers de fugitifs qui passent les frontières pour chercher refuge dans les provinces Russes de Kars et d'Erivan, renvoyés par les autorités Russes par suite de la disette, sont, à leur retour dans leurs hameaux, saccagés, dans leurs terres ruinées, en proie à leurs persécuteurs insatiables. Le paysan Arménien est livré à la complète indigence et à la misère certaine; ce qui lui reste du produit de son amer travail après les contributions exorbitantes du Gouvernement et les extorsions des dîmeurs, lui est enlevé de vive force par les Kurdes—il n'y a plus de justice pour lui, le nom d'Arménien en lui-même constitue un crime aux yeux des autorités Turques. L'audace des hordes Kurdes transformées en milice ne connaît plus de bornes; leur qualité de troupes de Hamidiyés couvre toutes les atrocités qu'ils commettent à force armée et sans jamais être restreints, tandis que les plaintes de leurs victimes sont étouffées dans le sang ou impitoyablement traitées en actes de résistance à la force publique.

Les récents massacres de Sassoun viennent d'ajouter un formidable anneau à l'écrasante chaîne de détresses des Arméniens. Près de deux mois se sont écoulés avant que la nouvelle de ces actes d'horreur ait pu pénétrer en Europe. Des villages entiers ont été complètement détruits, les atrocités les plus révoltantes commises, des milliers d'habitants, hommes, femmes, et enfants ont été massacrés—et ce carnage humain, ces actes de cruautés perpétrés par une armée Turque sous le commandement direct d'un Muchir, sont qualifiés par leurs auteurs de suppression de révolte. Sans l'intervention et la coopération des Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin

il serait complètement inutile d'espérer justice et équité aux Arméniens, dont l'état actuel de détresse et d'épouvante ne peut que s'aggraver davantage sous un régime qui menace de se développer en un système d'extermination.

De toutes les nationalités Chrétiennes dans l'intérieur de la Turquie d'Asie les Arméniens représentent, par leur nombre, leur langue, leur littérature, leur religion, leur histoire—par leurs traditions de plus de quarante siècles d'existence nationale—l'élément le plus vital, le plus compact, et le plus apte à accepter et à fructifier, dans l'intérêt même de l'Empire Ottoman, les bienfaits de la civilisation.

Des réformes fondamentales dans la justice et dans le Gouvernement de ces provinces; la participation des Arméniens aux droits comme aux devoirs de l'administration des pays qu'ils habitent; la formation de corps mixtes de police et de gendarmerie; la nomination d'un Gouverneur-Général Chrétien approuvé par les Grandes Puissances qui surveilleront par des délégués spéciaux l'application de ces mesures, peuvent seules assurer la stricte exécution de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin et restaurer justice, sécurité, et bien-être dans ces provinces de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dont les Arméniens ont toujours été des plus fidèles sujets, malgré toutes les assertions contraires faussées par des fonctionnaires oublieux de la sollicitude Impériale et de leurs devoirs.

Au nom de la justice et de l'humanité, et dans le but suprême du maintien et de la consolidation de l'Empire Ottoman, les Arméniens en appellent aux Grandes Puissances Chrétiennes; ils sollicitent leur haute protection et invoquent leur puissant secours pour mettre terme à leurs souffrances et assurer aux populations des provinces un gouvernement équitable, l'égalité devant la loi, et la sécurité de leur vie, de leur honneur, et de leurs biens. Les Arméniens maintiennent leur droit à l'existence et attendent des Grandes Puissances Garantes l'exécution de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

L'Association Anglo-Arménienne, à Londres:
Le Président,
(Signé) FRANCIS SEYMOUR STEVENSON.
Le Secrétaire,
EDWARD ATKIN.

Londres, 3, *Plawden Buildings*,
le 7 Décembre, 1894.

No. 393.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 7*, 1894, 2·45 P.M.

I HAVE informed the American Minister, as instructed in your Lordship's telegram No. 115, the Porte has not yet replied to his last communication, and he thinks that unless the Turkish Government again ask for it, the American Consul will not be sent. He would in any case carry on his inquiry, quite independently of the Commission.

No. 394.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 7*, 1894, 10 A.M.

CONSUL GRAVES telegraphs that he learns that the Commission which left Trebizond on the 2nd December, and were expected at Erzeroum to-day, have instead gone to Erzinjan.

Mr. Graves does not know whether Erzeroum will be visited by the Commission at all.

No. 395.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 7*, 1894, 10·20 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 116.

I communicated the substance of your telegram to Said Pasha to-day, and advised him that the other foreign Consuls at Erzeroum should be invited to take part in the inquiry.

I had already on the 29th ultimo suggested this course.

His Excellency has just been here to inform me that the Sublime Porte are willing to accept the conditions which Her Majesty's Government attach to the participation of their Consul in the inquiry, and that they have decided to propose to France and Russia that their Consuls at Erzeroum should be authorized on the same footing as our Consul to take part in the inquiry.

No. 396.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 7.*)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 7*, 1894.

COUNT KÁLNOKY entirely agrees with Her Majesty's Government on the advisability of obtaining the co-operation of as many of the Great European Powers as may be possible on the question of the Armenian massacres, as suggested in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, but, as your Lordship is already aware, there is at Erzeroum no Austro-Hungarian Consul.

Russia, in his Excellency's opinion, will in all probability refrain from any appeal to the Treaty of Berlin owing to the turbulent character of her own Armenians, while he understands from M. Cambon, whom he has seen, that France will probably follow the same line of policy.

As regards his own feelings and sympathies, Count Kálnoky quite agrees with Her Majesty's Government, but is adverse to such an appeal in view of other inconvenient questions which it might raise.

The Sultan, his Excellency understands, is much alarmed by the events which have taken place, and he believes that His Imperial Majesty has been kept in ignorance of the truth.

No. 397.

Mr. Goschen to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December 8.*)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Washington, November 29*, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a cutting from the "Boston Herald,"* giving an account of an indignation meeting held on the 26th instant in Faneuil Hall in Boston to protest against the Armenian massacres.

The chief interest of this meeting lies in the Resolution which was passed at the conclusion of the proceedings, urging the President of the United States to investigate the matter, either by sending Representatives to the spot, or by joining in a Commission to be sent by the united European Powers, and appealing to Great Britain to lose no time in enforcing the reforms stipulated in the Treaty of Berlin.

The meeting has acquired a certain measure of importance here from the number of well-known and prominent people who were present, and from the fact that both the present and the late Governor of Massachusetts took part in its proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

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* Not printed.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 99.) *Paris, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 87 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I have been assured by M. Hanotaux that every confidence is reposed by the French Government in their Ambassador to the Sultan, M. Cambon. He has been instructed to enter into communication with his British and Russian colleagues, and further he has been authorized, should the Sultan accept, and he himself deem it desirable, to enter into the arrangement which has been suggested for a joint examination of the late occurrences at Bitlis by ourselves and other Powers.

No. 399.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 132.) *St. Petersburgh, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 112 to Count Kapnist, who has promised to submit it, as soon as possible, to M. de Giers, though he may not be able to do so immediately, as his Excellency, for the last two days, has been more suffering.

No. 400.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 71.) *Rome, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 83 of 6th instant.

I duly informed Minister for Foreign Affairs as instructed, who desires me to inform your Lordship that Italy, being a Signatory Power to the Treaty of Berlin, ought to take part in the inquiry about to take place. He will instruct Italian Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject, and will give the necessary orders to the Italian Consul at Trebizond, whose jurisdiction extends to Erzeroum.

No. 401.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 46.) *Berlin, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 64 of the 6th December, I have the honour to report that, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I made a communication yesterday to the German Government respecting the composition of the Commission appointed to inquire into the reported massacres in Armenia.

Baron von Marschall replied, that although the German Government were only indirectly interested in the question, the Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople had already received instructions to advise the Sultan to appoint, in his own interests, a Commission as to whose integrity there could be no doubt in the opinion of the Great Powers.

No. 402.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 8, 1894, 8·5 P.M.*

THE Italian Government having instructed their Ambassador here to propose to me that their Consul at Trebizond, whose jurisdiction also extends to Erzeroum, should accompany the Commission, his Excellency has just called on me to discuss the question. Fearing that this proposal might raise new difficulties if put forward at the present moment, and would give the inquiry the appearance of an international intervention, I told M. Catalani that France and Russia had not as yet given any definitive answer, and urged him to postpone any action.

I told him that the only reason of our having limited the suggestion to France and Russia was the fact that they alone had Consuls at Erzeroum.

If you concur in this, it would be well to send a message direct to Rome. M. Catalani will telegraph home in the sense of my remarks.

No. 403.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 118.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

YOUR Excellency should bring to the knowledge of the Turkish Government the main facts contained in the reports transmitted in your despatches Nos. 530 and 557 of the 26th ultimo and 3rd instant, respecting the occurrences in the Sassoon district. You will, of course, omit any details or names which would be a cause of danger to the persons from whom the information has been derived.

No. 404.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 119.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I REQUEST your Excellency to express to the Sublime Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from your telegram No. 227 of the 7th instant, that the Turkish Government agree to the participation of foreign Consular officers in the inquiry to be undertaken by the Bitlis Commission.

No. 405.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 121.) *Foreign Office, December 8, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

UNLESS you have any other proposal to make, I think that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum will be the proper person to accompany the Bitlis Commission.

Mr. Graves should be told to hold himself in readiness to start without delay, and your Excellency will no doubt arrange with the Turkish Government as to where he shall join the Commission of Inquiry. You should concert with your colleagues as soon as you are told whether their Consular officers will join in the proposed inquiry as to the joint instructions which should be given them.

No. 406.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 9, 1894, 10·30 A.M.*

WITH reference to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 118, I would submit that, as Mr. Graves is to accompany the Commission, it would not be desirable to communicate any of his despatches to the Sublime Porte, who might quote them as proofs of his partiality. Boyadjian's letter of the 29th October, inclosed in my despatch No. 557, is private, and could have only a second-hand value, as Diarbekir is outside the sphere of the disturbances. As to these despatches, therefore, I propose to suspend action unless further instructed; but I am communicating Hallward's despatch inclosed in my despatch No. 539 of the 26th ultimo.

No. 407.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 9, 1894, 7·30 P.M.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW returned to Constantinople yesterday, and I have just had a conversation with him on the subject of the Bitlis Commission. He is of opinion that the Consuls should not directly participate in the Commission, but should only exercise control over it without leaving Erzeroum, and on learning the Porte's proposal he at once telegraphed to his Government in this sense.

He considers that any direct contact of the Consuls with the population should be avoided, as their presence and interrogations might arouse hopes and demands which could not be realized, and which would engage the responsibility of the Powers further than would be justifiable.

His idea is that the Consuls should indicate to the Commission the points to which it should turn its attention, and that the Commission should keep them informed of the progress of its inquiries.

The Consuls should present a Report either jointly or separately, and this Report should form the basis of any future decision of the Powers.

If it was found that the inquiry was not being conducted satisfactorily, the Porte should then be informed that the Consuls would hold a separate inquiry. The Russian Government will in all probability adopt M. Nélidow's view, and France would regulate her action accordingly.

M. Nélidow had discussed the question with M. de Giers, and is convinced that his Government would be averse to raising any political question, though they were ready to act in the cause of humanity.

I have also seen Saïd Pasha this afternoon. His Excellency is anxious that the Consuls should be appointed regular members of the Commission, and that they and the Turkish Commissioners should present a collective Report.

I observed that it would be impossible for the Consuls to sign a joint Report unless they were in complete agreement with the Turkish Commissioners.

No. 408.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, December 9, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 84 and 85, dated to-day, your Lordship will be interested to learn that Baron Blanc has confidentially sent me to-day copy of a telegram which he dispatched this morning to Signor Silvestrelli. It runs as follows:—

"Sur la demande de Sir P. Currie notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople l'a appuyé pour l'enquête et s'est ainsi engagé dans l'affaire de l'Arménie. Nous serions surpris

que maintenant l'Angleterre nous laissât de côté tandis qu'au contraire l'Italie peut mieux que personne se placer sur un terrain commun en faveur des Arméniens avec l'Angleterre et la Russie, entre lesquelles nous espérons voir continuer l'entente annoncée en Asie. Faites d'urgence communication verbale en ce cas."

I hope to see Baron Blanc to-morrow, and carry out your Lordship's instructions.

No. 409.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 9, 1894.*

YOU will have learnt from Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 230 of yesterday, repeated to your Excellency, that the Italian Government wish their Consul at Trebizond to accompany the Commission.

Request Baron Blanc to delay action in this matter until the French and Russian Governments have stated their intentions.

It would be unfortunate if the Porte, by any premature action on the part of Italy, should take alarm, and raise fresh difficulties in the way of the inquiry.

No. 410.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 550.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 4, 1894.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 110 of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the official notices which have appeared in the Turkish press respecting the decorations bestowed on Zeki Pasha and the Mufti of Moush, and the transfer of the Mutessarif of Moush.

I also inclose an extract from the "Levant Herald," giving an account of the honours paid at Trebizond to the officer who is conveying the Imtiaz to Zeki Pasha, as well as some flags sent by the Sultan to the Hamidieh regiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 410.

Official Notice in "Saadet" and other Papers of September 24, 1894.

THE decoration of the Imtiaz has been conferred on Zeki Pasha, Mushir of the 4th Corps d'Armée, for his faithful and laudable services and excellent and able efforts.

Official Notice in "Saadet" and other Papers of November 21, 1894.

The third class of the Medjidieh has been conferred on Mehemed Amin Effendi, Mufti of Moush, because he was an official deserving of the Imperial favour.

From "Saadet" of October 18, 1894.

The Mutessarif of Kerkuk, Arifi Pasha, has been appointed to the Sandjak of Moush, and Jelal Pasha, Mutessarif of Moush, to the Sandjak of Kerkuk. The Valis of Bitlis and Mosul have received information that the said functionaries have taken the usual oaths of allegiance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 410.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of November 22, 1894.

DÉCORATIONS.—En reconnaissance des efforts déployés par son Excellence le Maréchal Zéki Pacha, Commandant-en-chef du 4e Corps d'Armée (Erzindjan), pour le développement de l'agriculture dans la Province d'Erzeroum, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan lui a conféré la Médaille d'Or du Mérite Agricole. Cette décoration sera envoyée au Maréchal aujourd'hui même par les soins du Ministère de l'Agriculture.

Inclosure 3 in No. 410.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of November , 1894.

GREAT honours were paid at Trebizond to General Vehbi Pasha, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, who left here lately for Erzindjan, conveying the insignia of the Order of the Imtiaz conferred by the Sovereign upon Marshal Zeki Pasha, Commander of the 4th Army Corps, and a number of flags sent by His Imperial Majesty to the Hamidieh cavalry regiments.

On his arrival at Trebizond Vehbi Pasha was received by the Governor-General of the province, the Military Commander, and the civil and military functionaries, all in full uniform. They accompanied the Sultan's Envoy from the landing to the premises of the Military Administration at Ghiuzel Hissar. The procession was preceded by several Imams of the town singing hymns, and at their head walked an officer bearing one of the standards sent by the Sovereign.

No. 411.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 560.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1894.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 484, Confidential, of the 19th October, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the condition of the Armenian prisoners at Tokat, and the detention of the Archbishop.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 411.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, November 20, 1894.

Sir,

FROM the subjoined extract of a letter from Dr. Jewett, your Excellency will understand that the prisoners at Tokat have been subjected to torture, and that the Armenian Archbishop of Sivas is being hindered by the Ottoman Government from either leaving the country or resigning the Episcopate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 411.

Dr. Jewett to Consul Longworth.

Sivas, November 20, 1894.

(Extract.)

ON the 15th instant there remained between fifty and sixty Armenians in prison at Tokat of those arrested in connection with the robbery of the post.

None of the Turks who participated in the riots were arrested. No indemnity has been paid to those who sustained losses and injuries, as was promised. Two

members of the Church or Community Committee that tried to send a telegram to the Sultan in regard to the state of affairs and the Secretary of the Church Committee who wrote the telegram are still in prison. Prisoners who, under the most cruel forms of torture, said they knew something about the robbery, or had something to do with it, have since denied their statements.

The Armenian Archbishop asked permission to go to Constantinople on account of "his health:" permission was granted by the Patriarchate. The Minister of the Interior (or the Grand Vizier) told him not to go to Constantinople, and instructed the Vali not to allow him to go. He then offered his resignation. The Grand Vizier said it could not be accepted. He has now telegraphed to the Grand Vizier, asking for a leave of absence. He feels very badly about the injustice done to his people and their sufferings.

No. 412.

Colonel Chermside to Sir P. Currie.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 10.)

(Extract.) *December 6, 1894.*

TWO battalions of Redifs were called out in the spring owing to apprehensions of disturbances consequent on Armenian disaffection at Yuzgat, Kaisarieh, &c. These battalions have been disbanded with the exception of one or two companies now garrisoning Tokat in the Sivas Vilayet, where a recent disturbance is said to have occurred.

A considerable force was called out in August to act against the Armenians of the Sassoon district, who were reported to be in revolt. The "Ihtiats," or 1st Line Reserve of active army, were called out.

The reinforcements from Erzinjian and Erzeroum consisted of either one or both Rifle battalions, two battalions of the 25th Regiment, and one or two other battalions. There was a question also of reinforcements from Diarbekir, Kharput, and Van, but none of these, I believe, reached Moush. The total force collected from the garrisons of Bitlis (two battalions infantry, one regiment cavalry, and some mounted artillery), and these reinforcements are variously estimated at from six to twelve battalions, some cavalry, and two mountain batteries; I believe eight battalions, two batteries, and some cavalry to be correct.

Authentic details as to what took place are wanting.

It would appear that action was taken with infantry and artillery against insurgent Armenian mountaineers. The bulk of the Erzinjian and Erzeroum reinforcements were not employed.

According to Consular and general reports, a terrible massacre of unarmed people, men, women, and children, took place, in which the regular troops were engaged, including one Rifle battalion from Erzeroum. The operations lasted about twenty days, and were concluded shortly after the arrival of Mushir Zekki Pasha, Officer Commanding 4th Order, who appears to have stopped further bloodshed.

It is unlikely that the Turkish regular troops, who in 1876-77 prevented massacres in Bulgaria, took part in massacre without order. Turkish Commanders are notoriously wanting in initiative, and afraid of responsibility. It is improbable that a military commander ordered or instigated a massacre, unless he felt his action was justified by his orders. Owing to the representations of Riza Pasha, War Minister, Hamidieh regiments were not embodied or employed in the operations, but three squadrons are said to have garrisoned Moush during the absence of the regulars.

No. 413.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 562.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1894.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 283 of the 7th June, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatch which I have received from Colonel Chermside respecting the organization of the Hamidieh cavalry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 413.

Colonel Chermside to Sir P. Currie.

Constantinople, December 6, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the following in continuation of my letter of the 4th June last re Hamidieh cavalry.

I reported the number of regiments then raised to be fifty-six; this number is being increased to sixty-four, but the enrolment and cadre organization of the additional eight regiments is not yet complete, although some officers have been appointed.

A regiment of Pinyanish Kurds, under Hifezullah Bey, has been formed in the Albak and Guveyz districts of Hekkiari.

The oath of fidelity was taken by the regiment at Van.

Regiments from the Milli and Kara-Kechi tribes in the south have also been formed, and the Chiefs, Ibrahim Pasha and Khalil Bey, proceeded to Diarbekir to receive their commissions.

Ferik Ibrahim Sirri Pasha has been transferred from the command of the Hamidieh Division. It is believed that his command of it was considered unsatisfactory.

The acting Commanders who replaced him were, first, Liva Edhim Pasha, and, more recently, Liva Rahim Pasha.

Ibrahim Pasha gives a poor account of the organization. The regiments, after preliminary muster, have never been embodied; they are armed with native arms and various patterns of rifles, the property of the tribesmen. No Government arms have been issued.

The uniforms were to have been paid for by the men, but this does not appear to have been done. Only a small percentage of the troops, and these principally officers and non-commissioned officers, have uniform.

Beyond the mosque and head-quarters at Melasgird, no construction of buildings at the regimental centres appears to have been undertaken. The regular officers of the regimental cadres are not distributed over the country at regimental head-quarters, but collected in the towns, with nothing to do.

No regiments have been called out for instruction. The whole or a portion of most of the regiments have been at one time or another mustered, the horses branded, and the men present paraded to receive the colours.

Recently forty officers have been dispatched from Constantinople as instructors, but it remains to be seen whether they can effect more than the numerous regular officers already present in Kurdistan, on the strength of the division.

The reports of Consuls and travellers are unanimous in their depreciatory comments on the efficiency of the force and the conduct of its members.

A large number of the Berezanlu and Hassananlu Kurds, recently arrested for robbery and cattle-lifting, and taken to Erzeroum, prove to be Hamidieh officers and troopers.

During the recent troubles in the Mush and Bitlis districts, it was proposed to call out the Hamidieh militia. Owing to the representations of the War Minister as to the uninstructed and undisciplined state of the force this idea was abandoned, with the exception, I believe, of garrisoning Mush with three squadrons during the absence of the regulars.

A Commission, of which Ferik von der Goltz (Prussian) and Ferik Muzafir (Polish) Pashas are members, is at work on modifications of the organization, distribution, and regulation of the force.

It is, I believe, contemplated to abandon the designation Hamidieh. It is hoped to arrange the squadron and regimental head-quarters, so as to admit of regiments being assembled in a few hours, and to admit of instruction in the immediate vicinity of tribal summer and winter quarters.

It is problematical whether the labours of the Commission will have any practical result, especially as the augmentation of the force, already far too numerous, continues. Some modifications of the existing system are imperative if the force is to have any military value.

The scheme, however, is still resolutely proceeded with at very considerable expense, as evidenced by the large number of full-pay officers now belonging to

the force, both those the gazetting of whom has already been reported and a recent less numerous batch.

I append a list of the Hamidieh regiments in the Diarbekir Vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 413.

List of the Hamidieh Regiments in the Diarbekir Vilayet:—

Militia Cavalry.

Number.	Tribe.	Commanding Tribal Chief.
2	Mirau	Mustafa Pasha.
3	Milli	Ibrahim Pasha.
1	Tay	Abd-ul-Rahman Pasha.
1	Kara-Kechi	Khalil Bey.
1	Cheilk and Khalaja	Eyub Aghazadeh.
1	Milli and Da Koureh	Yussuf Agha.

No. 414.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 314.)

Vienna, December 8, 1894.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to Count Kálnoky yesterday afternoon the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 38 of the 6th instant, setting forth the views of Her Majesty's Government and the action taken by them at Constantinople respecting the Armenian massacres.

His Excellency said that he is entirely in agreement with Her Majesty's Government as to the expediency of enlisting the co-operation of as many of the Great Powers as possible in the line which your Lordship announces.

Austria-Hungary, however, having no Consul at Erzeroum, nor, indeed, any Consular official in those regions except an Honorary Consul at Trebizond, cannot associate herself in the Consular action which Her Majesty's Government hope will be supplied by France and Russia.

With regard to an eventual appeal to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, Count Kálnoky said that personally he should deprecate such a course, on account of the possibility of the step resulting in the raising of other questions which might become very inconvenient. He imagines that Russia will, on her part, wish to avoid any such appeal on account of her own turbulent Armenians; and as for France, he said he had had an opportunity of mentioning the subject to M. Cambon before the latter returned to Constantinople, and that he had gathered that the Government of the Republic is anxious that the Armenian question should not be allowed to assume serious proportions, but should be kept as quiet as possible.

All this, however, is not to be understood as indicating any want of sympathy on his (Count Kálnoky's) part, or any failure to recognize the exceeding gravity of the question. He has heard from Constantinople that the Sultan is greatly alarmed, but he believes that, at the outset, the facts of the case were misrepresented to His Imperial Majesty, who was left for some time in complete ignorance of the truth.

I called yesterday evening on the Russian Ambassador, and gave him, in general terms, an outline of my conversation with Count Kálnoky. Prince Lobanow said that as yet he had received no communication from St. Petersburgh on this subject, but that his Government would be placed in a difficult position by any proposal to grant autonomy to the Sultan's Armenian subjects, as the Russian Armenians in the Caucasus, who already give trouble enough, would take fire at once, and formulate demands which it would be impossible to comply with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 415.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 9, 1894, 10:30 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 121, I consider that Mr. Graves should accompany the Bitlis Commission. He intended to have left Erzeroum on the 29th November, on leave of absence, but, owing to a telegram from me, he is still there, awaiting further instructions.

No. 416.

Pro-memorid, communicated by Rustem Pasha, December 10, 1894.

L'AMBASSADE de Turquie est informée qu'un agitateur Arménien nommé Nazarbekiantz, qui est l'éditeur d'un journal révolutionnaire nommé le "Hentschak," est dernièrement arrivé à Londres avec plusieurs compositeurs et un matériel d'imprimerie en caractères Arméniens et s'est établi au No. 22, The Parade, Uxbridge Road, Acton, où il paraît que l'impression de son journal, ainsi que de brochures rédigées dans le même esprit, et qui sont surtout destinés à être introduits clandestinement et à être mis en circulation en Asie-Mineure, doit être dorénavant continué.

Il résulte des informations recueillies par l'Ambassade que le dit Nazarbekiantz et les Arméniens qui l'accompagnent seraient en rapports suivis avec quelques-uns des Nihilistes Russes, établis à Londres.

Les tendances et les doctrines des Arméniens "Hentchakistes" et le but final de leurs intrigues ne saurait être mieux défini que ne l'a fait le Révérend Dr. Hamlin dans une publication qui remonte à quelques mois, et dont une copie se trouve ci-jointe. Le Révérend Dr. Hamlin est le fondateur du Robert College à Constantinople; son expérience de la Turquie est considérable et sa bonne foi ne saurait être mise en doute.

Ce document est des plus instructifs et éclaire d'un jour frappant l'origine des incidents qui se sont dernièrement produits en Asie-Mineure.

Une liste des différentes publications sorties des presses du "Hentschack" en ces derniers temps est également ci-annexée. Les titres de ces différentes publications démontrent pleinement la connexion qui existe entre les révolutionnaires Arméniens auxquels ce journal sert d'organe, et le parti révolutionnaire anarchiste de tous les pays.

Ambassade de Turquie, Londres,
le 10 *Décembre*, 1894.

Annex 1.

Memorandum.

The Rev. Dr. Hamlin, who was the founder and first President of Robert College, Constantinople, has written the following letter to the "Congregationalist" of Boston, United States of America:—

"An Armenian 'revolutionary party' is causing great evil and suffering to the missionary work and to the whole Christian population of certain parts of the Turkish Empire. It is a secret organization, and is managed with a skill in deceit which is known only in the East.

"In a widely-distributed pamphlet the following announcement is made at the close:—

"'*Huntchagist Revolutionary Party.*

"'This is the only Armenian party which is leading on the revolutionary movement in Armenia. Its centre is Athens, and it has branches in every village and city in Armenia, also in the Colonies. Nishan Garabedian, one of the founders of the party, is in America, and those desiring to get further information may communicate with him, addressing Nishan Garabedian, No. 15, Fountain Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, or with the centre, M. Beniard, Poste Restante, Athens, Greece.'

"A very intelligent Armenian gentleman, who speaks fluently and correctly English as well as Armenian, and is an eloquent defender of the revolution, assured me that they have the strongest hopes of preparing the way for Russia's entrance to Asia Minor to take possession. In answer to the question how, he replied: 'These Huntchagist bands, organized all over the Empire, will watch their opportunities to kill Turks and Kurds, set fire to their villages, and then make their escape into the mountains. The enraged Moslems will then rise and fall upon the defenceless Armenians and slaughter them with such barbarities that Russia will enter, in the name of humanity and Christian civilization, and take possession.' When I denounced the scheme as atrocious and infernal beyond anything ever known, he calmly replied: 'It appears so to you, no doubt, but we Armenians are determined to be free. Europe listened to the Bulgarian horrors and made Bulgaria free. She will listen to our cry when it goes up in the shrieks and blood of millions of women and children.' I urged in vain that this scheme will make the very name of Armenia hateful among all civilized people. He replied: 'We are desperate; we shall do it.' 'But your people do not want Russian protection. They prefer Turkey, bad as she is. There are hundreds of miles of conterminous territory into which emigration is easy at all times. It has been so for all the centuries of the Moslem rule. If your people preferred the Russian Government there would not be now an Armenian family in Turkey.' 'Yes,' he replied, 'and for such stupidity they will have to suffer.' I have had conversations with others who avow the same things, but no one acknowledges that he is a member of the party. Falsehood is, of course, justifiable where murder and arson are.

"In Turkey the party aims to excite the Turks against Protestant missionaries and against Protestant Armenians. All the troubles at Marsovan originated in their movements. They are cunning, unprincipled, and cruel. They terrorize their own people by demanding contributions of money under threats of assassination—a threat which has often been put in execution.

"I have made the mildest possible disclosure of only a few of the abominations of this Huntchagist revolutionary party. It is of Russian origin. Russian gold and craft govern it. Let all missionaries, home and foreign, denounce it. Let all Protestant Armenians everywhere boldly denounce it. It is trying to enter every Sunday-school and deceive and pervert the innocent and ignorant into supporters of this craft. We must therefore be careful that in befriending Armenians we do nothing that can be construed into an approval of this movement, which all should abhor. While yet we recognize the probability that some Armenians in this country, ignorant of the real object and cruel designs of the Huntchagists, are led by their patriotism to join with them, and while we sympathize with the sufferings of the Armenians at home, we must stand aloof from any such desperate attempts, which contemplate the destruction of Protestant Missions, churches, schools, and Bible work, involving all in a common ruin that is diligently and craftily sought. Let all home and foreign missionaries beware of any alliance with or countenance of the Huntchagists.

(Signed) "CYRUS HAMLIN.

"*Lexington, December* 23, 1893."

Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

In view of the revolutionary and incendiary designs of the Huntchagists revolutionary party among the Armenians, the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society enjoins upon all those it befriends to give no countenance or support to that party.

(Signed) CHARLES B. RICE,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

(Signed) JOSHUA COIT, *Secretary.*

"Congregationalist," Boston,
United States of America.

Annex 2.

Publications du Parti Hentchaguiste sous forme de Brochures.

1. "Programme du Parti Hentchaguiste," 2e édition; épuisée. Gratis.
2. "Nouveau Courant et Lettre Ouverte au Peuple de l'Arménie." 1 franc.
3. "Anniversaire du 15 Juillet, 1890: les Héros de la Révolution." Portraits de Tchangulian, G. M. Nalbandyan et H. Ghoumrouyan; épuisé. 30 centimes.

3 *bis*. "La Sanglante Démonstration du 15 Juillet, 1890, à Constantinople, et les Héros du Jour." En Français; épuisé. 30 centimes.

4. "De Quoi Vit-on?" par S. Digstein, traduit. 75 centimes.

5. "Le 1er Mai. Fête Annuelle Universelle des Ouvriers," par Beleckhanoff; traduit. 25 centimes.

6. "Les Arméniens en Amérique," par Eguinian; et "Quel est le Prix du Travail?" par Carl Marx. 15 centimes.

7. "De l'Essence de la Constitution," par Ferdinand Lasalle, avec un portrait de l'auteur et une préface du traducteur. 40 centimes.

8. "Droit de Paresse," par Paul Lafargue, avec un portrait de l'auteur et une préface de la Rédaction du "Hentchag."

9. "Garden of Eden Defiled," en Anglais. Prix 5 centimes.

10. "Contre la Tyrannie," Procès d'Angora. 1 franc.

La Rédaction du Hentchag met également en vente les œuvres de Lerentz:—

1. "Poésies." 6 kopecks.
2. "Le Fugitif." 40 centimes.
3. "Le Brigand." 25 centimes.
4. "Au Combat." 10 centimes.

On accepte en payement des timbres postes. Frais de port à la charge du "Hentchag."

No. 417.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 234.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 10, 1894, 2·45 P.M.

BITLIS Commission.

The Italian Ambassador called on me to-day, and, in reply to his statement that he had been instructed by the Italian Government to concert with me respecting the co-operation of the Italian Consul at Trebizond with the other Consuls at Erzeroum, I told him that it was undesirable to raise any new point until details were finally settled, and that the whole question was still under discussion.

At M. Catalani's earnest request I promised that as soon as a definitive arrangement should be made I would, subject to your Lordship's approval, recommend to the favourable consideration of M. Cambon and M. de Nélidow the wishes of the Italian Government.

No. 418.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 10.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, December* 10, 1894.

I CARRIED out the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 85 in a letter which I sent to Baron Blanc yesterday evening, and I have received from his Excellency the following reply:—

"(Confidentielle.)

"Je m'empresse de répondre à votre lettre confidentielle d'hier soir. La Porte n'ayant donné qu'une suite dérisoire au conseil que vous et nous lui avions adressé, nous avons cessé pour notre part de lui donner d'autres conseils à cet égard. Ce n'est qu'avec Sir P. Currie et au besoin avec ses collègues amis et non avec la Porte que Catalani est autorisé à se concerter pour notre participation à une enquête de Consuls. Nous attendons d'autant plus volontiers le résultat de vos démarches envers la Russie que nous avons vu avec plaisir les symptômes d'une entente entre vous et cette Puissance sur les affaires d'Asie en général; cette entente si elle s'étendait à l'Asie Mineure présenterait un terrain commun où nous pourrions d'autant mieux remplir les devoirs spéciaux qui incombent à l'Italie où la culture Arménienne a, vous le savez, à Venise et à Rome, des racines traditionnelles."

No. 419.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1894.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 231 of the 9th, giving your reasons for not communicating to the Porte certain reports received from our Consular officers at Erzeroum and Diarbekir relating to the Bitlis occurrences, and I concur in the course suggested by your Excellency.

No. 420.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1894.

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to maintain a close concert with the other Powers on the question of proposed inquiry into the occurrences in the Bitlis Vilayet, and it would be to them a matter of great regret if the Russian Government should come to a decision in the sense suggested by the Russian Ambassador, as reported in your telegram No. 233 of yesterday.

Meanwhile, time presses, and in view of the strong feeling in this country, and of the fact that it would be impossible properly to supervise from Erzeroum the proceedings of the Commission, Her Majesty's Government consider that they cannot do otherwise than agree to the Porte's proposal, that the Commission should be accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, on the conditions already stated in my telegram No. 116 of the 6th instant. We trust this view will also, on consideration, be taken by the Russian Government.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, to whom I am sending your telegram and this reply, will be instructed to communicate with the Russian Government in this sense.

No. 421.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1894.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 74 of to-day.

Pray express to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the friendly manner in which he has met their wishes.

No. 422.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 10, 1894.

YOU should communicate with the Russian Government in the sense of my reply to Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 233 relative to the position of the foreign Consuls on the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry.

No. 423.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 11, 1894, 11·50 A.M.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received your telegram No. 125 of the 10th instant, and that I shall await further instructions from your Lordship pending the receipt of a reply from the Russian Government.

No. 424.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 11.)

(No 71.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 11, 1894.*

IN reply to the Russian Ambassador, who inquired of Count Kálnoky what steps should be taken if the reports of the massacres in Armenia were found by the Commission to be well grounded, his Excellency said that exemplary punishment must be meted out to the guilty. Without raising an European question, which is certainly most undesirable, it is difficult, he added, to devise means for the future protection of these people.

No. 425.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 11, 1894.*

HER Majesty's Government agree to the proposal of the Porte, that the Bitlis Commission should be accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum on the conditions which I communicated to you in my telegram No. 116 of the 6th, and which, as Said Pasha notified to you on the 7th, were accepted by the Turkish Government.

You should officially notify this acceptance to the Porte to-morrow, and express a hope that they will raise no difficulty in case any other of the Signatories of the Berlin Treaty should wish to send Consular officers to accompany the Commission.

No. 426.

*The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.**

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 11, 1894.*

I REQUEST your Excellency to communicate to the Government to which you are accredited the substance of my telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, repeated to you, in which his Excellency is instructed to agree to the Porte's proposal, that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum shall accompany the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry on the conditions specified in a previous telegram to you of the 6th instant.

No. 427.

Mr. Goschen to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 231. Confidential.)
Washington, December 3, 1894.

My Lord,

IMMEDIATELY upon the receipt of your Lordship's instructions I called upon the Secretary of State, and communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram with regard to the appointment of an American Delegate to accompany the Turkish Commission which is about to investigate the reported massacres of Armenians in the district of Bitlis.

* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 68), Sir E. Monson (No. 42), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 120), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 91).

I did not fail to impress upon him the importance of the matter, and the necessity of prompt action.

After hearing my communication, Mr. Gresham at once showed me the telegraphic correspondence which had passed between him and the United States' Minister at Constantinople on this subject, and told me I had full liberty to telegraph it verbatim to your Lordship, which I had the honour to do in my telegram of to-day's date. He told me that he had discussed the matter at great length with the President, and that they had both been of the opinion that they had no one at Constantinople to whom they could possibly intrust a mission of such delicacy and importance; and he added that it had been the firm conviction of the President that the presence of an American on the Commission, particularly one in whose tact and discretion they could not absolutely rely, might seriously embarrass Her Majesty's Government. I pointed out that as Her Majesty's Government were prepared to accept the arrangement, and, indeed, were of the opinion that without it serious diplomatic complications might arise, that objection might now be laid aside, but he answered that your Lordship had mentioned a proviso that the person selected should command confidence, and that really they had no one to recommend.

He could not indorse Mr. Terrell's proposal that the Consul should be chosen, and it was quite hopeless, such were his words, to expect any degree of impartiality from missionaries or the Professors of Robert College.

He regretted very much that it was not in his power to enter into the arrangement, particularly after hearing your Lordship's views on the subject, but the President's answer was already in the Sultan's hands, and could not now be changed.

I ventured to observe that several important and representative meetings had been held in the United States, at which Resolutions had been passed, begging the President to join with other Powers in causing the circumstances of the massacres to be investigated, and that I should have thought such a step as that proposed would be popular in the country; but he answered that those meetings had been held for the most part in Massachusetts, where most of the missionaries in the East came from, and that, though they might approve the appointment of a Delegate, if by any chance his report was favourable to the Turkish side of the question, there would certainly be a storm of indignation, which would fall upon the heads of the President and his administration.

I said that although your Lordship had stipulated that the Delegate should be at liberty to make independent reports upon points on which he might differ with the Commissioners, it was evident from your Lordship's language that he would not be expected to draw up a general report of the whole circumstances of the massacres, but merely to sign that of the Commissioners as evidence that the work of the Commission had been carried out, to the best of his belief, in an impartial spirit, and in the manner best calculated to arrive at the truth.

Mr. Gresham replied that he had not gathered that from Mr. Terrell's telegram, but that it made no difference, as the President's mind was fully made up—that to interfere in the matter at all might lead the United States' Government into complications which it was always their policy to avoid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 428.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 12, 1894, 2·30 P.M.*

ACTING on the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 126, I am writing officially to Said Pasha to inform him that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum will, on the conditions laid down by your Lordship, accompany the Commission. I privately informed M. Cambon and M. de Nélidow of this step.

A hint I gave them, that we should probably be left alone with Italy, seemed to produce a considerable effect on them, and I do not despair of their finding some joint arrangement that will be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government.

I have managed to put off till now the Italian Ambassador, who has been pressing me without respite; I shall, however, be obliged this evening to inform him of my communication to the Porte, and shall leave it to him to make a direct application to them.

No. 429.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 12, 1894, 4 P.M.*

THE United States' Minister was informed some days ago by the Sublime Porte that they regretted that they must decline the kind offer of the President, as they had now proposed to England to send a Consul to accompany the Commission.

No. 430.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 239.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 12, 1894, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Graves saying that he expects the Commission to arrive at Erzeroum to-morrow.

I have telegraphed to him to report to me the movements of the Commission by telegraph, at the same time informing him of the communication I made to the Porte to-day.

No. 431.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 12, 1894.*

I HAVE written a note to Count Kálnoky on the subject of the Armenian atrocities in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 42 of yesterday's date.

The reports received by your Lordship are entirely confirmed by the news received from the Austrian Consul at Trebizond, who fears evidence will not be given against the offending parties, owing to the existing reign of terror.

Count Kálnoky decisively snubbed the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, who has been endeavouring to lay the whole blame on the Armenian Committee in London.

No. 432.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 12, 1894.*

REFERRING to my preceding telegram No. 73, on the subject of the Armenian atrocities, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the steps taken by Her Majesty's Government meet with the fullest approval of Count Kálnoky. His Excellency has told all my colleagues that he trusts that France and Russia will for the moment disregard political considerations, and pursue the same policy which he himself on grounds of humanity also supports.

The press, both here and elsewhere, have been most freely encouraged by the Turkish Government to excite public opinion against England, and a certain amount of success has attended their efforts.

No. 433.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December 12, 1894.*

ACTING on the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 116, I have spoken to Count Kapnist in the sense of the two preceding ones. He promised to communicate the substance to M. de Giers, who is still very unwell, although

slightly better. He said that instructions had been sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to consult with Sir P. Currie as to the position of Consuls with the Commission, and that he could at once tell me that his Government wished their Consul at Erzeroum to participate in the inquiry. But they were most averse to raising any political question, although ready to join in securing a full investigation of the case and the punishment of the guilty.

In participating in this inquiry, they were actuated by no "arrière-pensée politique," and they wished this to be clearly understood.

No. 434.

The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.[*]

(No. 512. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 12, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 87 of the 6th instant, I transmit to your Excellency copies of three despatches from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding reports from the British Consular officers at Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir, relative to the reported massacres at Sassoon, in the Vilayet of Bitlis.[†]

I request you to communicate these papers to the French Government in strict confidence, for their information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 435.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 344.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 12, 1894.*

I TOOK the opportunity to-day, at my first interview with M. de Staal after his return from Russia, to mention to him the present state of the Armenian question.

I found that his Excellency was not aware of what had taken place, and I therefore gave him a general account of the progress of the negotiations, and the present state of the affair.

M. de Staal thanked me for this communication, and said that he was convinced that the Russian Government would not be disposed to do anything at the present time which would tend to increase the inherent difficulties of the situation. On the contrary, they had strong reasons for desiring that the question should be kept within reasonable limits. There was a considerable amount of agitation amongst the Armenians in the adjoining Russian provinces, and the Russian Government felt themselves placed in some embarrassment from the number of Armenians who desired to migrate from Turkish into Russian territory, and for whose location it was extremely difficult and inconvenient to provide.

I expressed my satisfaction at the observations made by his Excellency, and said that Her Majesty's Government earnestly desired to act in concert with the Russian Government in this grave matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 436.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 240.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 13, 1894, 12·15 P.M.*

M. DE NÉLIDOW informs me that his Government adheres to the request of the Turkish Government to add the Russian Consul at Erzeroum to the Commission

[*] Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 334), Sir Clare Ford (No. 283), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 342), and Sir E. Monson (No. 153), *mutatis mutandis*.
[†] Nos. 283, 339, and 390.

of Inquiry, and leaves it to the Ambassadors to arrange together as to the extent of the powers and competence of the Consuls.

M. de Nélidow will come to me this evening to discuss these points.

The Porte have replied to my note referred to in my telegram to your Lordship No. 237 of the 12th December. They contend that their proposal of the 5th instant, to the effect that we should send our Consul, is now modified by the subsequent one, that the three Powers should each send their Consuls. The Porte add that they must now wait until they have received our reply to the last proposal.

My answer has been that the first proposal is in no way affected by the second; that it is quite independent of it; and that, having taken time to consider it, we now accept it.

No. 437.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1894.

IN speaking of the Bitlis Commission, the French Ambassador told me to-day that his Government had sent instructions to their Ambassador at Constantinople in the same sense as those received by M. de Nélidow.

Your Excellency should urge both Representatives to agree to the Commission being accompanied by the French and Russian Consuls on the same conditions as have been consented to by the Porte in the case of the British Delegate.

No. 438.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1894.

YOUR Excellency was correct in explaining to the Porte, as reported in your telegram No. 240 of to-day, that the acceptance by Her Majesty's Government of the Turkish proposal as to the presence of a British Consular officer on the British Commission was independent of any other proposal.

Her Majesty's Government have, however, always desired and gladly accept the co-operation of the French and Russian Consuls.

No. 439.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1894.

I HAVE received with much satisfaction the assurance of the Russian Government, conveyed in your telegram No. 134 of yesterday, as to their willingness to participate in the proposed inquiry into recent occurrences in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

The instruction sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject has been repeated to your Excellency.

No. 440.

The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.

(No. 518.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1894.

THE French Ambassador called to-day, and informed me that the French Government were ready to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia in regard to the Bitlis Inquiry, and that instructions had been sent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to consult with his British and Russian colleagues as to

the proposed participation in the inquiry of the Consuls of the three Powers at Erzeroum, and the arrangements which should be made for that purpose.

I thanked Baron de Courcel for this communication, which I said I had received with much satisfaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 441.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 393 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1894.

AT an interview I had to-day with Rustem Pasha I explained to his Excellency the present situation of the Armenian question, and informed him that we had decided to accept the proposal of the Turkish Government to send a Consul to accompany the Commission upon the conditions which we had already laid down. I assured him that, looking to the strong feeling which had been excited in the country on the subject, it would be impossible to satisfy public opinion without the presence of an independent person at the inquiries of the Commission. If the inquiry were held simply by the Turkish Commissioners, and the result were not satisfactory, there would be no alternative but to have a fresh and independent inquiry, and it was obvious that this would be a measure far more injurious to the authority of the Sultan, and likely to cause more widespread agitation, than the measure which we proposed to adopt of sending a Consul with the Commission, who would be able to watch the proceedings and make to us an independent Report.

His Excellency appeared to agree with me in this view, but he complained bitterly of the agitation in this country, and reiterated to me the strong opinion which he had formed that the movement was really a revolutionary one, and that the reports of the atrocities were, if not entirely untrue, grossly exaggerated. He could not understand how persons with any sense of justice could so loudly condemn the Turkish Government before it was known what was the result of the inquiry which was about to take place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 442.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 14, 1894, 11·45 P.M.

A NOTIFICATION has been made to the Porte by the Russian and French Representatives here that they accept the proposals respecting their Consuls at Erzeroum. They discussed the details this afternoon at this Embassy.

For three reasons they think it advisable that Delegates, who should be nationals, should be sent to the Commission; but that the Consuls should not accompany it themselves.

Firstly. They are of opinion that the Delegates, being dependent on an authority not so remote as the Embassies at Constantinople, could bring more influence to bear on the Commission by simply threatening to refer to their superiors at Erzeroum, than the Consuls themselves could; and that the presence of the Consuls themselves would not offer such satisfactory guarantees as this arrangement.

In the second place, they consider that the Consuls from their status would end by being forced into directing the inquiry, and that it would be impossible for them to confine themselves to superintending. Before an European inquiry the witnesses would be subjected to intimidation, and their evidence would thereby become unreliable, and they would also have endless difficulties thrown in their way. The Ambassadors are of opinion that an European inquiry, impeded by Turks, would not be attended with the same success as a Turkish inquiry under the control of Europeans.

The last reason is that, owing to the winter, those of the Consuls who are not young might be unable to travel.

The Delegates would indicate the places and methods of carrying on the investigation, and, on all points about which they were not satisfied, would cause the Commission to examine the witnesses.

They would appear at all the proceedings of the Commission, with the object of controlling and supervising them.

With regard to the *procès-verbaux* of the Commission, which would be communicated to them, they would have the right of having such alterations made as they thought necessary.

They themselves would also draw up a *procès-verbal* of each act of the Commission and of each sitting.

A *procès-verbal* would be drawn up by them and referred to the Consuls, should any difficulty arise between them and the Commission.

No. 443.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 14, 1894, 11·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 241, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I think that one of the chief reasons why both the Ambassadors are so strongly averse to sending the Consuls themselves is the advanced age of the Russian Representative at Erzeroum, and also that he is quite unsuited for the purpose.

Should the Porte agree to the proposal I should suggest sending Vice-Consul Shipley as our Delegate; he is now at Erzeroum. The French would send a Dragoman of French nationality, while Russia would be represented by a Secretary of the Consul-General. The Russian Ambassador here is of opinion that there would be great difficulties in regard to the direct examination of witnesses, and that if the Delegates were to formulate questions to be put by the Commission, the result would be more satisfactory.

Should your Lordship consider this a point of importance, we might reserve to ourselves the right, in case of necessity, of direct examination.

No. 444.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 430.) *Paris, December* 13, 1894.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 512 of the 12th instant, I have communicated to M. Hanotaux, in strict confidence, and for the information of the French Government, the copies of Sir P. Currie's despatches forwarded by your Lordship relating to the reported massacres at Sassoon, in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 445.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 431.) *Paris, December* 13, 1894.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 91 of the 11th instant, I addressed yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing his Excellency of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to accept the proposal made by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, that a British Consular officer should be nominated on the Commission appointed to inquire into the reports of the alleged massacres of Armenians in the Vilayet of Bitlis, and the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum will accompany the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Inclosure in No. 445.

The Marquis of Dufferin to M. Hanotaux.

Paris, December 12, 1894.

M. le Ministre,

IN accordance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan having proposed to Her Majesty's Government that a British Consular officer should be nominated on the Commission which has been already appointed to inquire into the reports of the alleged massacres of Armenians in the Vilayet of Bitlis, Her Majesty's Government have informed the Sublime Porte that they accept the proposal, and that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum will accompany the Commission on condition that he has the right of addressing inquiries to the witnesses and of making an independent report to Her Majesty's Government, which will be communicated to the Ottoman Government and to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 446.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 14, 1894, 3·20 P.M.

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to my despatch No. 572 of the 12th instant, that the Sultan yesterday sent Fuad Pasha to St. Petersburgh with decorations for their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Russia.

No. 447.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1894.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 241 of to-day, stating that the French and Russian Ambassadors have accepted the proposal of the Porte in regard to the participation of Consular officers in the inquiry into the reported massacres at Sassoon, but that their Excellencies have proposed to you that the Consuls at Erzeroum should not themselves accompany the Commission, but should be represented for the purpose by Delegates.

As Her Majesty's Government are anxious that the French and Russian Governments should act in concert with them in this matter they will not object to the arrangement proposed by the two Ambassadors, although they would have preferred that Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum should himself take part in the inquiry, as originally arranged with the Turkish Government.

Your Excellency is accordingly authorized to accept the proposal, and to depute Mr. H. S. Shipley as the Delegate of Her Majesty's Government.

The right of the Delegates to address questions directly to the witnesses in case of necessity should be expressly reserved.

It is essential to obtain every guarantee that the inquiry will be thorough and complete.

No. 448.

*The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.**

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1894.

I REPEAT to you Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 241 of the 14th instant, and my reply of the same date, relative to the Bitlis Commission, and I request your Excellency to communicate the substance of both telegrams to the French Government.

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* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 76), Sir E. Monson (No. 50), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 128), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 100).

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 449.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 75.) *Vienna, December 14, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

IN regard to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 44 and 45 of the 12th instant on the subject of Armenia, I have to report to your Lordship that, in Count Kálnoky's opinion, it would be nonsense to try and control the proceedings of the Commission from Erzeroum, and that his Excellency agrees with Her Majesty's Government that it is necessary for the Consuls to join in the expedition, and thinks that Russia and France are in principle of the same way of thinking.

The Count informed me, confidentially, that M. de Nélidow has exaggerated ideas as to his own influence with M. de Giers.

No. 450.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 51.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 75 of to-day's date, and I request that in communicating the information relative to the proposal to send Delegates to the Bitlis Commission, as instructed in my telegram No. 50 of to-day, you will inform Count Kálnoky, in confidence, that although we should have preferred that the Commission should be accompanied by the Consuls, we accepted the present proposal, because we think that the dispatch of Delegates will sufficiently secure the object we have in view. The effect on the Porte would have been seriously lessened had we separated ourselves on this question from the other Powers.

No. 451.

*The Earl of Kimberley to Sir Clare Ford.**

(No. 101.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE been informed to-day by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires that, unless Her Majesty's Government think it advantageous, the Italian Government have no desire to insist that their Consul at Trebizond should accompany the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry.

I have expressed my thanks to Signor Silvestrelli for this information, and have told him of the new arrangement that Delegates from the Consuls at Erzeroum should accompany the Commission.

I said that the decision as to what the Italian Government would do naturally lay with themselves. We should welcome the presence of an Italian Delegate with the Commission if they wished to send one, or, should they prefer it, they might dispatch their Consul to Erzeroum to co-operate with the British, French, and Russian Consuls in the general supervision of the Delegates deputed by them.

No. 452.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 398.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*
Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 554 of the 1st instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Dwight, in which he informs you that the question of a

* Also to Sir P. Currie (No. 133).

site for a Protestant church at Ordou has been settled in principle, and expresses gratitude for the action taken by you in the matter.

I have heard with satisfaction of the result of your Excellency's efforts on behalf of the Protestants of Ordou.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 453.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 398 A.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*
Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon at the Foreign Office, and said he was instructed to inform me of the acceptance by the Turkish Government of the proposal that the Consuls of France, Great Britain, and Russia at Erzeroum should accompany the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry.

I expressed my satisfaction at this communication, but I told Rustem Pasha that I had just received your Excellency's report of the result of your communications with your French and Russian colleagues, who had suggested as a preferable arrangement that the Consuls should not themselves accompany the Commission, but that Delegates should be sent who should act under the control and superintendence of the Consuls.

I said that, personally, I should have preferred that the Consuls should have accompanied the Commission, as had been originally proposed. I did not, however, think it necessary to press the point, as time was of importance, and Her Majesty's Government desired to act in concert with the other Powers.

Rustem Pasha expressed his regret that Mr. Consul Graves should not be present at the inquiry, as, from what his Excellency had heard of him, he believed him well qualified to undertake this duty.

I told his Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley, who had considerable experience in Turkey, would be nominated as Delegate, and that Mr. Graves would exercise a general superintendence, in conjunction with the French and Russian Consuls.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 454.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 287. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*
Sir,

I HAVE received in the course of the week several inquiries from the Italian Chargé d'Affaires with respect to the arrangements in progress for securing the presence of foreign Consular officers with the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry.

I informed the Chevalier Silvestrelli to-day that, after consultation together, the British, Russian, and French Ambassadors at Constantinople had recommended that the Consuls at Erzeroum should not themselves accompany the Commission to Sassoon, but should send Delegates, who should be nationals of the three countries.

The Ambassadors were of opinion that this would be the most convenient and effective course.

The Delegates would be present at all the proceedings of the Commission in order to watch and control them.

They would have the witnesses interrogated by the Commission on any points which seemed to them to require elucidation, and they would also indicate the places which the Commission should, in their opinion, visit, and the steps to be taken for carrying on the investigation.

The *procès-verbaux* of the Commission would be communicated to them, and they would have the right of demanding any corrections which might appear to them necessary. They would also themselves draw up a *procès-verbal* of each sitting and of all proceedings of the Commission, and in case of any difficulty arising between them

and the Commission they would draw up a report, and refer it to the Consuls at Erzeroum.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had been informed that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to accept this plan of procedure, but that the right should be reserved to the Delegates of asking questions directly of the witnesses if necessary.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires stated that it was not the intention of his Government to press for the presence on the Commission of Inquiry of the Italian Consul at Trebizond, unless his attendance should be considered advantageous by Her Majesty's Government.

I expressed my thanks to M. Silvestrelli for the courtesy of the Italian Government, and said that it was, of course, for them to decide what course they would pursue; if, however, they desired to send a Delegate with the Commission, his presence would be welcome to Her Majesty's Government, or else they might, if they preferred it, send their Consul at Trebizond to Erzeroum to join with the other Consuls in the general superintendence of the proceedings of the Delegates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 455.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 338.) *Foreign Office, December 14, 1894.*

Sir,

IN the course of conversation to-day the German Ambassador observed to me, on mention being made of the Bitlis Inquiry, that he was very glad that Germany was not taking an active part in the matter.

I said that I had understood from the first that it was not the desire of the German Government to take any part in the inquiry, but I need hardly say that their co-operation would have been welcomed by Her Majesty's Government.

In answer to an observation made by his Excellency that the Italian Government would be hurt if they took no part in the inquiry, I informed him that we had been in communication with the Italian Government on the subject, and had expressed to them the satisfaction with which we should see an Italian Delegate sent with the Commission

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 456.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 244.) *Constantinople, December 15, 1894, 2·35 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Commission is to leave Erzeroum to-day for the Vilayet of Bitlis, according to a telegram I have received from Mr. Graves.

No. 457.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 245.) *Constantinople, December 15, 1894, 10·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Russian and French Ambassadors and myself have this afternoon sent to the Porte an identic verbal communication as follows:—

"Our Governments have, in answer to the Turkish proposals, authorized our Consuls at Erzeroum to send special Delegates to the Commission.

"These Delegates will have instructions to take cognizance of the Reports and Minutes of the Commission, and to make reports to their respective chiefs.

"They will accompany the Commission and will give it assistance in all its proceedings by offering all such indications as may be necessary to its investigations.

"They will, in case of need, themselves put questions to the witnesses, after having first suggested to the President such questions as they think he should put to the witnesses."

No. 458.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 15, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 241 of yesterday, I conclude that it has been made perfectly clear that each Agent shall report independently to his Government, and that neither Consuls nor Delegates shall join in the Report of the Turkish Commission. I shall be glad to know whether it is proposed that this duty shall be undertaken by the Consul or the Delegate.

No. 459.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 15, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 132 of the 14th instant, agreeing to the new proposal that Delegates for the Consuls at Erzeroum should accompany the Commission, you should stipulate for our right to dispatch our Consul to the spot, if it were proved by the reports of our Delegate that the inquiry is not proceeding to our satisfaction. The same right would naturally be enjoyed by the other Powers.

No. 460.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 246.) *Constantinople, December 15, 1894, 10·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

THE full instructions to our Consuls will now be drawn up by us, and I will propose that, in case the inquiry does not progress in a satisfactory manner, we should insist on reserving their right to go to the spot themselves.

The Porte will have these instructions communicated to them.

The communication which I recorded in my telegram No. 245 of to-day had been made before I received your Lordship's telegram No. 135 of to-day.

So as not to bring on unnecessary controversy, general terms were purposely used in the communication in question.

No. 461.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 76.) *Vienna, December 15, 1894.*
(Telegraphic.) P.

I COMMUNICATED personally to Count Kálnoky the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 50 and 51 of the 14th instant, on the subject of Armenia. His Excellency did not express any opinion as to whether the employment of the local Consuls on the Commission would be preferable; but said that, it being absolutely necessary to avoid delay, it was of great importance that on the question of their

Delegates the Powers should be of one accord. Such Russian reports as have reached his Excellency seem to correspond generally with those which your Lordship has received.

No. 462.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—Received December 16.)

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 16, 1894, 12·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 133 of the 14th instant, in regard to the accession of an Italian Delegate to the Commission, M. Catalini has spoken privately and unofficially to M. de Nélidoff. The latter told him last night that a political character would be given to the inquiry if Italy were to intervene, and that Italy had no interest in Armenia. He expressed himself in most decided terms against the accession of an Italian Delegate, and said that it would incite the Armenians to rise.

The Italian Ambassador has informed his Government of the language of the Russian Ambassador, and will do nothing without further instructions.

I am giving him all the assistance I can, and trust that the matter will be arranged satisfactorily.

I intend speaking to the Austrian Ambassador on the subject with a view of obtaining his co-operation.

No. 463.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—Received December 16.)

(No. 248.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 16, 1894, 3·30 P.M.*

REFERRING to the Foreign Office telegram No. 123 of the 10th instant.

Said Pasha, who has previously sent me two messages to the same effect, writes to ask me if the communication of Hallward's despatch cannot be withdrawn, on the ground that, having been written at Van, it cannot throw light upon matters which are now being impartially inquired into on the spot.

What shall I reply to Said?

The paper must be communicated to the Sultan if it is not withdrawn, and the effect on him in his present excited state might be very serious, especially that portion which gives an account of the reading of the Firman to the troops.

I understand that this is the real reason for Said's request.

No. 464.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 249. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 16, 1894.*

REFERRING to my telegram to your Lordship No. 238 of the 12th instant.

In regard to the refusal of the President's offer to send a Commissioner, the American Minister has been instructed by the United States' Government to inform the Porte that the circumstances of the refusal were unfortunate, and such as might give rise to resentment in America, and that the President expected that Mr. Jewett should be enabled to discharge his commission, and that he should have received proper protection.

The United States' Minister informs me, confidentially, that he believes the President's instructions to have been sent in ignorance of the arrangement come to between the Porte and the three Powers.

No. 465.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 250.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 16, 1894, 7·30 P.M.*

THE departure of the Commission from Erzeroum has, according to a telegram from Mr. Graves, been postponed for one or two days.

No. 466.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December 16, 1894.*

COUNT KAPNIST, to whom I have communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 126 and 127, informs me that the Russian Ambassador's instructions were to the effect that he should confer with Sir P. Currie with a view to coming to an understanding. He said that his Government wished the inquiry to be conducted in a satisfactory manner and to be complete, but it would be better, they thought, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should settle the details of the arrangement so far as the position and attributions of the Consuls or their Delegates were concerned.

No. 467.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 16, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 245 of yesterday, informing me that an identic verbal communication has been addressed to the Porte by you and your Russian and French colleagues relative to the deputation by the Consuls at Erzeroum of Delegates to accompany the Commission of Inquiry into the reported massacres in Sassoon.

I observe that the Consul's Delegates are to report to their respective chiefs. I should be glad to be informed whether it is understood that the Consuls are also to furnish reports to their respective Governments on the result of the inquiry.

We attach the greatest importance to obtaining full independent reports on all that has occurred.

No. 468.

Mr. Goschen to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 236. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Washington, December 6, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that before sending off my despatch No. 231, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, I called again at the State Department with a view to making a further effort to persuade Mr. Gresham to urge the President to reconsider his decision with regard to the appointment of an American Delegate to accompany the Turkish Commission to the scene of the reported Armenian massacres.

I was unable to see Mr. Gresham, but the Assistant Secretary told me, confidentially, that he feared there was no chance of the President reversing his decision, giving as a reason, amongst others, that the relations of the United States' Government with the Porte were already not all that could be wished, owing to the question that had arisen between the two Governments with regard to Armenians who became naturalized in America, and who are accused by the Porte of using their position as citizens of the United States to conspire against the Government of the Sultan. These relations might be rendered still less agreeable if an American Delegate were to

accompany the Turkish Commission, and issue a report unfavourable to that drawn up by the Commissioners.

In view of this statement, and Mr. Gresham's firm attitude on the subject the day before, I thought it best to send off a despatch at once, in order that your Lordship might be acquainted without delay with the reasons given for the President's refusal to sanction the arrangement.

On the following day, however, Mr. Gresham asked me to call upon him, and told me that on reconsideration of the matter, he had again submitted the arguments I had laid before him to the President, and had represented to him that it would perhaps not be right that the United States' Government, as the Representatives of a civilized nation, should refuse to render what assistance they could towards eliciting the truth of the reports, which had horrified the whole civilized world, and that to sanction the arrangement proposed by the Sultan would also be a proof of good-will towards Her Majesty's Government, who had attached so much importance to the matter, and who were more directly interested than any other Government.

Finally, the President had given his consent, and the United States' Minister at Constantinople had been authorized to direct the United States' Consul there to join the Commission with all possible dispatch.

Mr. Gresham stated further that he had made inquiries as to the qualifications of Mr. Jewett for the post, and had been informed that he was a man of good standing and considerable attainments, and could be trusted to draw up a careful and impartial report, adding that, of course, copies of his report would be handed to Her Majesty's Government and that of the Sultan.

I ventured to tell Mr. Gresham that your Lordship would be much gratified by his friendly reference to Her Majesty's Government, and that I was sure the President's decision to sanction the arrangement would be greatly appreciated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

No. 469.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 566.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 7, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the official Notice from the "Tarik," reporting the capture and trial of Armenian brigands at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 469.

Extract from the "Tarik" of December 7, 1894.

(Translation.)

Telegram from the Vilayet of Van to the Ministry of the Interior, dated November 5 (17), 1894.

ON receipt of news from the patrol of mounted police in the district of Archag that the sheep of a village there had been carried off by some unknown brigands, and that in the encounter which resulted on their pursuit a zaptieh and three villagers died from wounds received, while one zaptieh was seriously wounded, the Major and a sufficient number of mounted zaptiehs were sent off to arrest the brigands.

From the report received from the Major it would appear that on approaching the village of Boghaz-Kesen he was informed that some brigands were hiding in caves in Mount Akhta. On his surrounding the position and summoning them to surrender, they opened fire and killed a zaptieh corporal. The zaptiehs returned the fire, succeeded in taking six of the brigands alive, while three of them were reported to have died from wounds received, though the truth of the latter report has not yet been substantiated.

Profiting, however, by the inaccessibility of their position, the darkness of night, and a snowstorm, the brigands managed to escape, but were pursued.

It having been reported that they were Armenians disguised as Kurds, the Assistant Procureur-Général with the necessary officials were at once dispatched to the spot and the result of their investigations will be forwarded on their return.

Reply from Van to Telegram from the Grand Vizier, dated November 12 (24), 1894.

The Assistant Procureur-Général had been sent to inquire into the incident mentioned in my telegram of the 5th (17th) November to the Minister of the Interior.

He returned yesterday, and in his Report states that the brigands engaged in the encounter were twenty Armenians armed with modern rifles; of these [? some] were under sentence for various crimes and were voluntary members of the body of seditious Armenians, who, some time ago, took refuge in Persia; while the remainder were natives of Van, Boghaz-Kesen, and Hazara.

The encounter took place about nightfall, and profiting by the darkness and a terrible snowstorm, which began at that time, the above-mentioned six volunteers escaped to Persian territory, while the villagers made their way to their homes.

On these facts coming to light the inhabitants of Boghaz-Kesen and Hazara, who had taken part in the affray, and such persons, to the number of fourteen, as were proved to have supplied the brigands hiding in the caves of Akhta Dagh with arms, ammunition, and other requisites, were arrested and legal proceedings are now being instituted against them.

As the brigands mentioned in the above telegrams are being photographed and are going to be publicly tried under the eyes of the Consuls, the whole truth of the situation will be still further brought to light.

Telegrams of the 12th (24th) November and 22nd November (4th December) last, from the Vali of Siyas to his Highness the Grand Vizier state that Major of Gendarmes of Caesarea and the Kaimakam of Azizié went in pursuit of the brigands who plundered some merchants at Saman Pass in the Sandjak of Caesarea, two Circassians and one Armenian were arrested, and five horses and the rest of the stolen property were restored to their owners. One of the brigands named Agop, who had escaped, was eventually captured.

No. 470.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 567. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 8, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 437 of the 22nd September, and previous correspondence respecting the arrest of Armenians at Denek-Maden, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora, giving details about the trial of these prisoners.

Mr. Cumberbatch tells me privately that he was informed last year by the late Governor-General and the Procureur-Général of Angora, that there was little or no evidence against any of these men. The latter official added that he felt sure all would be acquitted, except one, or perhaps two, who would receive at the very most three to five years' imprisonment.

Unfortunately there was some delay in commencing the trial, as no suitable place for holding the Court was available. In the interval the Yuzgat troubles took place, and prejudiced, it is to be feared, the minds of the Judges, as there seems to be no other way to account for the unexpected and unusually severe sentences pronounced by the Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 470.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Angora, December* 3, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 18th October and 6th November, 1893, and of the 30th May and 19th September of this year, respecting the case of certain Armenians of Denek-Maden, condemned by the Court of Kir-Shehir to penal servitude for life, I have the honour to send your Excellency some further and more detailed information derived from a reliable source, and showing that most, if not all, of the men now confined in the Payass Castle, viz., Bedros Kirkodjian, Agop Baklian, Kéropé Baklian, Alexandre Keyadjian, Kevork Abadjian, Philippos Tomarzalian, and Anania, are the victims of a miscarriage of justice.

The first inclosure which I beg leave to forward is a narrative of the events as submitted to me. It tends to show (1) that one prisoner, Anania, was arrested because of certain words he publicly made use of, and which were taken up by a Turk as alluding to a contemplated rising of the Armenians; and (2) that the mere fact of its having come to the knowledge of the Chief of Police that the finding of the placards had formed the subject of conversation between them, led to the arrest of the others.

It relates an incident which throws suspicion on the Assistant Procureur's zaptieh, Akif, and on the doctor of the Municipality, of having played a part, and it accuses the authorities of forcing the youth Philippos to admit having written the placards under the instigation of other parties. In conclusion, this document sets forth great irregularities in the proceedings connected with the case.

The second inclosure is a translation of the "committal" paper issued at Denek-Maden. It charges the prisoners with having been members of revolutionary Committees; but the evidence brought forward to sustain these charges, and which I do not think was subsequently supplemented, is extremely meagre and altogether circumstantial. It sees a proof of guilt in Philippos having told his friends that he had seen one of the placards on a shutter, whilst it was really on a wall of a house, and because his handwriting was held to resemble that of one of the placards. The others were committed because Philippos deposed to having heard them converse about placards, and Bedros especially, because he pretended not to have heard about the discovery of one of the placards when asked about it by a man he did not know, and because he had written a letter to Agop and Kéropé which was considered suspicious, as it was conveyed by a cousin of theirs who had been implicated in the Yuzgat troubles.

The third paper contains a few notes on the prisoners' denials of the charges before the Court.

In the inclosure of my despatch of the 30th May it was shown that the whole affair had been got up by the Revenue Controller, aided by his Greek clerk, Bendé Oglou Youssouf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 470.

Narrative of Events at Denek-Maden in connection with Placard question in April 1893.

(Translation.)

THE first placard was found posted up one day in April 1893. The following day Anania, when interfering in a dispute between a Turkish peasant and an Armenian shopkeeper about a debt, said to the latter, "Accept his price, we shall soon have the new crop in, say, in four days." These last words were taken up by a Turk, called Kara Djouman, who exclaimed, "You infidel, what is the meaning of those words, only four days remain?" and, assisted by other Turks, fell upon Anania and gave him a beating.

The affair caused great excitement among the Turks, and all the parties concerned were arrested, but only Anania was ultimately committed and convicted on the charge of sedition (his name is not mentioned in the accompanying committal paper).

About a week after the finding of the first placard another one was found posted near the Konak. This, like the preceding and subsequent ones, was in Armenian printing characters.

Several Armenians as well as Greeks were called up by the Kaïmakam and examined as to their handwriting, and in the meantime a Police Commissary arrived from Angora to make an inquiry.

A day or two after his departure another placard was discovered, but no arrests were made.

Yet another placard was found, this time on a house belonging to a prominent Armenian. Philippos sees it in the morning and relates the fact to Bedros and others, adding that it bears the signature of a certain Tchernozian. Bedros passes the news on to the Municipality physician, Hampartzoum Effendi, who tells the Chief of Police in the shop of a certain Kiragos Agha, who communicates to Tchernozian how, in his shop, the doctor had told the Chief of Police that he had heard it stated in Bedros' shop that his (Tchernozian's) name was on the placard. Tchernozian applies to Bedros to learn what he knows about the matter. Bedros, not being acquainted with Tchernozian, says he knows nothing, but afterwards confides to Kiragos Agha that it was Philippos who had told him. Kiragos relates the incident to the Chief of Police, and in due course the Angora Police Commissary and the Kir-Shehir Procureur arrive on the scenes and open an inquiry.

Most of the above-mentioned men, as well as others, are arrested, and in their examination they relate the circumstances as given above.

It was first attempted by bribes and then by threats to make Philippos and Kéropé declare that Hadji Artin Effendi, on whose house one of the placards was posted, had made him (Philippos) write it.

In the meantime, one Friday night, the night watchmen, Ismaïl and Bektash, with a baker called Sapan and his servant, brought in two individuals with a great noise to the police station, shouting, "Here they are; we caught them in the act of posting this placard;" and handing a placard to the police officer, Salih Effendi, they added, "We had to get the help of these two bakers to bring the men in."

Salih Effendi took the paper to Philippos, who was under his immediate charge, to read, and finding that it was identical with the former ones, he at once started off for Angora to inform the Vali that the real culprits had been arrested.

On his return in a few days t' e inquiry was resumed in the presence of the Kaïmakam. On the appearance of the two men caught by the night watchmen, one proved to be the Municipality doctor, Hampartzoum Effendi.

The Kaïmakam got furious, and drawing his revolver rushed towards the doctor, using the most insulting language. The doctor managed to quiet him until the arrival of the Procureur's Assistant, and then the doctor's companion came forward; he turned out to be the zaptieh of the Procureur's Assistant, disguised as an Armenian.

The watchmen, on being asked in the hands of which one they had found the placard, pointed to the zaptieh, Akif by name, saying, "This Yuzgat infidel, when he was in the act of fixing it up, and the other one (the doctor) was keeping a look-out."

Hereupon the Procureur's Assistant raised the long robe in which the zaptieh was disguised and exposed his uniform, saying, "Do you call this fellow the Yuzgat infidel?"

The doctor and the zaptieh were kept in prison a few days, but the Procureur's Assistant having threatened the Kaïmakam to make the whole affair take a quite different turn to the one it had so far taken, they were both released.

Philippos was then not only asked to incriminate a certain Tahibian Missak, but had large sums offered him if he would denounce his supposed accomplices whoever they might be. He was forced by threats to do his best by repeated attempts to imitate the handwriting of the last placard. A Commission of so-called experts was then called in, and their report was to the effect that some of the copies resembled the original and some did not.

In the meantime, the houses of all the prisoners were searched, and a letter written by Bedros to the brothers Agop and Kéropé and conveyed by their cousin Nazar, said to be implicated in the Yuzgat troubles, was found. Though it merely contained expressions of condolence, a secret meaning was attached to the words.

The preliminary examination of all the prisoners having been completed, two or three were released and the *procès-verbal* was sent to Angora. It was returned in two months; but as no special instructions were received, the authorities were afraid to release the prisoners for fear of being suspected of receiving bribes, so

the committal papers were duly made out and forwarded to the Examining Judge at Angora.

Nothing further was done until the end of October 1893, when several more were released under instructions from the Procureur-Général, who found that there was not sufficient proof of their guilt.

The remaining seven, viz., Anania, Bedros, Alexandre, Kevork, Agop, Kéropé, and Philippos, were in due course transferred to Kir-Shehir, where, after several months' delay, owing, it was officially stated, to the want of a proper room for the Court, which was ultimately held in the school-room, their trial was ordered, and hurriedly took place without the presence of the Christian members of the Court.

The sentences were not pronounced in open Court, but were communicated verbally to the prisoners in their confinement.

The defence of their officially-appointed Counsel was not heard, and their application for a copy of the sentence was first ignored, and then they were told it would cost them 16*l.*

Their first Counsel, Kazandjian, died in the course of the proceedings, and though he was duly replaced by Koupoyan Effendi, the son of Kazandjian, a youth of 15 years, was made to sign his name to the *procès-verbal* which was sent to the Court of Cassation.

The prisoners' statements in defence were not included in the *procès-verbal*.

Inclosure 3 in No. 470.

No. 128.—*Committal Paper of Denek-Maden Prisoners.*

(Translation.)

KIRKODJIAN OGLOU BEDROS, Tomarzalian Philippos, Baklian Agop, and his brother Kéropé are charged with being members of the Revolutionary Committee formed by some evil-minded and seditious Armenians for the purpose of inciting a certain class of Her Majesty's subjects to rise in armed rebellion against the existing Government, and to free themselves, forsooth, from the tyranny of an unjust Government, and to create a Principality, and, to this end, with causing certain seditious placards to be posted up in the vicinity of the Government House of Denek-Maden, the chief place of the Keskine District, in the Sandjak of Kir-Shéhir. Their complicity in the said acts resting on the following evidence, viz.:—

Though the placard, posted on the wall of Hadji Artin's house, situated opposite the telegraph office in the said town, was invisible to passers-by unless very carefully looked for, one of the prisoners, Philippos, stated that, when passing along the street, he had seen the said placard fixed on the shutter of the shop, and that it bore the signature of Kevork Tchernozian. The said placard, not being fixed on to the shutter but on the wall, proves the previous knowledge of the said Philippos of the preparation of such a paper, and of the shop shutter having been fixed upon as the place where to post it.

Again, the said Philippos stated that on one occasion, when the prisoners Agop Baklian and his brother Kéropé were in the shop of Bedros, another of the prisoners, Agop, in reply to Bedros' statement addressed to Kéropé, to the effect that Agop had posted another placard, the latter kept silent, and made no contradiction.

On another occasion, in the house of Agop, placards were the subject of conversation.

The placard posted on the fourth occasion was shown to the aforesaid Philippos, he being asked to read a part, and then write it down from memory; the three lines he wrote in Armenian characters bore a great resemblance to the writing of the placard in question. This being brought home to Philippos, he realized the mistake he had committed, and was unable to undo his action or to say a word in his defence. The Report of the Technical Commission, appointed to express an opinion upon the identity of the two writings, admitted their similarity.

The statements of Hadjatour, Philippos' brother, implicated in the "Armenian affair" at Cesarea, differed from those of Philippos and of his other brother and parents.

The above-mentioned Bedros, in reply to Tchernozian Kevork—who came to his shop to say that a placard had been found posted on the gate of the Konak bearing his name, and to ask whether there had been any talk about it in his shop—said that he knew nothing about the matter, whereas only a short time previous to Tchernozian's coming to see him, he—in the shop of Terzian Kéropé, and in the company of Basmadji Garabet and Abdalian Artin—had been talking about placards, and about another one having just been posted up, when Philippos entered the shop and told them that a placard had been found posted up bearing Tchernozian's name, and that it must be the one they were talking about. He (Bedros) heard it all.

Further, Dr. Hampartzoum came to Bedros' shop, and a little later on Hadji Artin Oglou Kéropé also came, and they talked about placards. Bedros first said that the latter had come to his shop to buy sugar, and afterwards he said that he had met him in the street while he was returning to his shop; one statement thus contradicting the other. Further, though, as it has been stated above, he (Bedros) had heard about the placard business, he concealed the fact from Kiragos. His statements were also contradicted by Kazaros Oglou, Basmadji Garabet, and Abdalian Artin.

Two hours after the meeting above referred to, Dr. Hampartzoum said to Bedros, "Another placard has been found posted up." He replied, "Yes, I heard of it, and the signature is that of Tchernozian Kevork," but two hours afterwards he sent word to Dr. Hampartzoum by Kéropé requesting him not to mention to any one his having heard of the posting of the placard from him, as the information was got from a young man with antecedents.

The following day Dr. Hampartzoum, meeting Kéropé, and asking the reason of the request for the secrecy of the information, he answered, "It won't do to give it out; it won't do to let out names: even if one was to be put to death, one ought not to betray that boy." But, ultimately yielding to Dr. Hampartzoum's persistent requests, he told him that the boy's name was Philippos.

The fact also came out that the aforesaid Bedros was well acquainted with the said Agop and Kéropé Baklian, and had daily intercourse with them.

A letter—written by the said Bedros to the said Agop and his brother Kéropé, and sent by Nazar, cousin to these two, and implicated in the "Armenian affair" of Yuzgat—was found among the papers of Agop, having been brought to light during the law-suit between Kéropé and Tchernozian, which is being tried in the Court of Keskine.

All this having been proved by their own declarations, the aforesaid Bedros, Philippos, Agop, and Kéropé have been committed for trial. Philippos, being only a youth of 14, will be tried under Article 40 of the Penal Code, and the others under Article 58 of the same Code.

The present is a copy of the official committal paper issued by the Deputy Procureur-Général's Department of Keskine under No. 128, and dated the 13th November, 1893 (1 Teshrin Sani, 1309), stating that the above mentioned have been committed for trial in accordance with the Report of the Examining Board under No. 164, dated the 2nd November, 1893 (21 Teshrin Evvel, 1309).

(L.S.) (Signed) EDHEM, *Chief Clerk of Court.*

5 *Djemazi-ul-Evvel*, 1311, *and* 3 *Teshrin Sani*, 1309
(*November* 15, 1893).

Inclosure 4 in No. 470.

Notes on Trial of Denek-Maden Prisoners.

(Translation.)

PHILIPPOS, in the course of his trial, denied having stated that Bedros had spoken to Kéropé concerning the placard, or that there had been conversations on the subject in their houses. He denied that such statements had been actually written down, and said if they were written it was the clerk who had falsely done it.

Kéropé positively stated that he had not seen Dr. Hampartzoum, in fact, that they were not on speaking terms. He asked that the doctor should either prove his statements or be punished for having brought such accusations against him.

Kéropé further stated that the letter received from Bedros, through Nazar, was—as those who had read it could confirm—merely a letter of condolence, and that under such circumstances he could not admit the charges brought against him. He further stated that though the author of the placard, Akif by name, had been arrested, he had not even been imprisoned.

No. 471.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 570.)
Pera, December 10, 1894.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship is aware that I have on several occasions brought unofficially to the notice of the Grand Vizier complaints of the conduct of Turkish officials and Kurds towards Armenians, which did not seem sufficiently grave or authenticated to warrant a formal representation.

I have now received from his Highness the paper of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, replying to my various Memoranda.

The references at the side of this paper will enable your Lordship to compare the Turkish version of each case with that given by Her Majesty's Consuls.

I also inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Hallward, which is referred to in the paper, and which has not been already sent to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 471.

Paper communicated to Sir P. Currie by the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

AFTER inquiry into the matter of various Memoranda presented at different dates, the following is a quite unofficial statement of the information obtained on the different incidents.

It is true that an Armenian of the village of Kyusik was arrested on the charge of setting fire to some corn, but it is not a fact that he was ill-treated by zaptiehs, and he was imprisoned only after his crime was proved in the course of the usual legal investigation.*

The payment by Armenian villagers of watchmen to look after their crops, &c.,* is an ancient custom in vogue in all those districts, and has no special significance, and the rumour that these villagers had given some £ T. 15 worth of corn to the Chief of a neighbouring tribe in return for his looking after their crops is a gross exaggeration.

It is true that a quantity of cereals was burned in the village of Derebey* inhabited by Mahmoud Aga, a Captain of the Hamidié regiments, but the property burned was a matter of only some 40 or 50 Turkish liras, and the offenders are now being tried by the Courts.

The Van authorities have absolutely no knowledge of the fact that some Armenians returning from a monastery in the neighbourhood of Van were plundered by Kurdish horsemen.†

The Kurd Shakir of the Gherair tribe settled in the Caza of Shattakh while under examination for a crime committed by him, effected his escape and took refuge among the Shirnak tribe in the Vilayet of Bitlis,† and the Vali of that vilayet is now being communicated with with a view to his arrest. It has been stated that an Armenian of Shattakh, called Mirza, had been wounded by Yakoub, a cousin of Shakir, but, after a very complete investigation, Yakoub's guilt has not been proved, and, apart from the fact that Mirza's extreme poverty renders it highly improbable that he should have been robbed of a sum of 18 Turkish liras, he was, moreover, a man deeply implicated in seditious practices, and it has officially transpired that at the time he was wounded he was returning not from Hekkiari, but from a monastery called "Dirik" in the direction of the Persian frontier, and the head-quarters of disaffected Armenians.

It is not a fact that Kurds attacked the village of Pani, but what really happened is this. A quarrel arose between some Kurds who were proceeding along the road

* See Vice-Consul Hallward's No. 21 of August 25, 1894 (sent home in Sir P. Currie's No. 423 of September 18, 1894).
† See Vice-Consul Hallward's No. 24 of August 28, 1894 (sent home in Sir P. Currie's No. 423 of September 18, 1894).

which passes by the village, and the Armenian villagers, the latter killing one of the Kurds, whereupon two Armenians and five Kurds were arrested.*

The statements that sixteen Armenians were wrongfully imprisoned, that their money, sheep, or corn was stolen, and that the robbers went unpunished, are contrary to the truth.*

The baselessness of the rumour that an Armenian who had started from Constantinople had been plundered near a village named Paluch of Karban is shown by the fact that there is no village of the name of Paluch in the vilayet.

The report that an Armenian woman of Norkugh, who had come to Van to see her son who was in prison, died from the effects of the ill-treatment she received at the hands of the zaptiehs on guard, is without foundation.†

The arrest of some three Armenians from the village of Archag, who were coming from Russia with their passports in order, was a measure considered necessary in order to make inquiries about them, in accordance with the decision arrived at not to receive any Armenians coming from foreign countries, and the Armenians in question were set free four or five days after.†

The refusal to give "teskérés" to some Armenian merchants proceeding to Constantinople arose from the fact that their names resembled the names on a list from Bitlis of the members of a "Comita" (Secret Revolutionary Committee),† whose formation at Constantinople had been rumoured at Bitlis, and when it was found that they had no connection with the "Comita," they were at once provided with "teskérés."

There is absolutely no truth in the statement that the Armenian servant of the British Vice-Consul at Van was ill-treated by the police while proceeding to his house at night.†

Inclosure 2 in No. 471.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Van, August 28, 1894.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the brutal and indiscriminate manner in which the police of this town and district exercise their functions.

A few days ago a poor Armenian woman, named Bassé, from the village of Norkegh in this district, came to see her son Shahin in prison; the policeman in charge knocked her down with his musket and kicked her; two or three days after she died from the effects of this treatment.

Three days ago an Armenian servant of mine was on his way home at night when he was set on by the police who were going the round and badly beaten for no other reason, as far as I can discover, but that he was an Armenian.

Twelve Armenian workmen returned a few days ago from Russia, where they went last year to get work, on their way home to Moukus, a village in this vilayet, some way south of this: they have been imprisoned for the same reason.

Similarly, a Protestant preacher, named Hofsep Levonian, who arrived from Arjish on the 11th instant, with his passport, &c., in order, was arrested the same day and put in prison, where he remains pending the arrival of the Vali, who is at present on tour in the province. An American missionary, who assures me that he is an absolutely harmless individual, offered to go bail for his appearance in case there was any charge against him, but the Vali, on being communicated with by telegraph, replied that he had better stop where he was till his return.

An Armenian cavass of the Russian Consulate went yesterday (an Armenian holiday) to a monastery near here in his usual costume with sword and revolver; the Mudir of the place ordered him to give up his arms, and on his refusing had him beaten by the police and imprisoned. He was released by order from Nan. Russia has been represented here for the last two years by an Armenian Dragoman only.

I may also mention that two or three of the principal Armenian merchants here applied for passports a few days ago to go to Constantinople on business, but were refused; no reason was given for the refusal.

* See Vice-Consul Hallward's No. 22 of August 27, 1894 (sent home in Sir P. Currie's No. 423 of September 18, 1894).
† See Vice-Consul Hallward's No. 23 of August 28, 1894.

Two parties of Armenians who arrived here from Constantinople within the last fortnight were solemnly warned by the police on board the steamer before leaving to say nothing whatever about the state of affairs in the capital to any one here; the warning was renewed more than once by the police on the road, and on arrival in Van they were arrested by the police and again charged with threats to keep absolute silence on anything connected with Constantinople, the subject of the earthquake being specifically tabooed.

I cannot say what (if any) may be the reason of these mysterious proceedings; various sensational rumours are circulated with regard to affairs at the capital, but I have not been able to ascertain whether any of them are founded on fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 472.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 573.) *Constantinople, December* 12, 1894.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship is aware that since the resignation of M. Ashkian the post of the Armenian Patriarch has been vacant, and that to elect a successor it is necessary, under the Constitution of 1861, to call together the Armenian National Assembly.

For some time the Sultan was unwilling to take any steps in this direction, but after the news of the Bitlis massacres became known overtures were made to Mgr. Himayak, the *locum tenens* of the Patriarchate.

It was intimated that the Assembly would be allowed to meet on condition of commencing its proceedings by presenting a loyal Address to the Sultan, and thanking His Imperial Majesty for his paternal government of the Armenian people. The details of the negotiations are obscure, but ultimately an Iradé was issued, which, though studiously avoiding the words "National Council," or "Delegates," authorized the assembling of "the persons necessary to elect a Patriarch."

In pursuance of this order some eighty persons have assembled at Constantinople, most of whom are susceptible to Government influence.

The election was to have taken place last Friday, but has been postponed till the 19th, and it is anticipated that great difficulty will be found in inducing any portion of the assembly to sign an expression of satisfaction at the present system of government.

I am informed that the most popular candidate for the Patriarchate is Mgr. Ismirlian, whose name had the second place at the last election of the Catholicos of Echmiadzin, and who is strongly anti-Turkish in his sympathies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

P.S.—I also hear that the Turkish candidate is Mgr. Bartelome, ex-Metropolitan of Broussa, and that the Palace is doing all in its power to insist on his election.

P. C

No. 473.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 575.) *Pera, December* 13, 1894.

My Lord,

THE observations addressed by your Lordship to Rustem Pasha on the 27th ultimo, of which I was informed in your telegram No. 100 of that date, produced a serious effect both at the Palace and at the Porte.

The Sultan at once sent his Private Secretary, Kiazim Bey, to see me, and he was shortly followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. They expressed much alarm at the possible consequences which your Lordship had foreshadowed, and begged me in most urgent terms to suggest the steps that could be taken in order to avoid them. I said that I had no authority to make any suggestion, but that I believed Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied with nothing else than an

absolute guarantee that there would be an impartial inquiry into the events at Sassoon. So far as I could see, the only means of securing this was to invite foreigners to take some part in the inquiry. I suggested that the task might be undertaken by the Consuls at Erzeroum.

On the 30th November Said Pasha made the proposal forwarded *in extenso* in my telegram No. 207 of that day, namely, that an American functionary, to be chosen by the United States' Legation at Constantinople, should be present at the inquiry to be held by the Commission. In consequence of these communications, your Lordship authorized me to postpone the execution of the instructions (addressed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 102 of the 28th ultimo), to sound my Russian and French colleagues as to whether their Consuls would be empowered to join in an entirely separate investigation independent of the Commission. Your Lordship at the same time stated that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to accept the appointment of the American functionary as affording a security for impartial investigation, on the understanding that the person to be selected should be one to command general confidence, and be free to make separate reports on any points on which he differed from the Turkish Commissioners. You added that if these matters were settled satisfactorily and the Delegate started at once, Her Majesty's Government would refrain from taking any immediate further steps, but must reserve the fullest liberty of action.

On the 2nd December I informed the Turkish Government of this decision, but the President of the United States having refused to sanction the intervention of an American functionary, your Lordship again instructed me on the 4th December to no longer defer communicating with my French and Russian colleagues as to an independent joint inquiry.

The Turkish Government then proposed that, in place of the American functionary, either Blunt Pasha, Woods Pasha, or an English officer, who would be named for the occasion Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, should be added to the Commission. These suggestions were not entertained, and on the evening of the 5th Said Pasha stated that the Sultan would consent to the nomination on the Commission of a British Consular officer. The name of Mr. Graves, Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, was suggested as a possible choice.

Meanwhile, the President of the United States had reconsidered his determination, and expressed his readiness to direct the United States' Consul at Sivas to accompany the Turkish Commission, and to draw up an independent Report.

This proposal was received with much satisfaction by Her Majesty's Government, but has not been accepted by the Porte, and appears to have been finally dropped, in consequence of subsequent arrangements.

On the 5th December I sounded the French Ambassador and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires as to whether their Consuls, who are the only foreign Consuls besides our own stationed at Erzeroum, would be empowered to take part in a separate and independent investigation into the events in Sassoon. They promised to refer the matter to their respective Governments. I ascertained that both of them had received either from official or private sources reports confirming those of Mr. Hallward in their most important particulars.

On the 6th December your Lordship instructed me to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to agree that our Consul at Erzeroum should accompany the Commission on condition that he should have the right of addressing inquiries to the witnesses, and of making an independent and separate Report to Her Majesty's Government, which would be communicated by them to the Porte and to the other Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

In communicating this reply to Said Pasha, I repeated a suggestion which I had already made to him on the 29th ultimo that the Porte should invite the other foreign Consuls at Erzeroum to take part in the inquiry. A few hours afterwards he came to announce that the Porte had decided to invite France and Russia to authorize their Consuls at Erzeroum to accompany the Commission on the same footing as our Consul. This was on the evening of the 7th, and on the 8th your Lordship instructed me to express to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had received the communication.

The two Powers not having on the 11th instant sent any definite answer, your Lordship instructed me no longer to postpone the formal acceptance of the proposal that our Consul should accompany the Bitlis Commission.

I accordingly addressed yesterday to Said Pasha the note of which a copy is inclosed, and which expressed the hope that if any other of the Signatory Powers of

the Treaty of Berlin should wish to send Consular officers the Porte would make no difficulty. I have this morning received a reply, in which the Turkish Government maintain that the separate proposal to us was modified by the larger one to the Powers, and that they must await our reply to the second communication. To this I have sent an answer maintaining our right to deal with the first proposal as an independent one. Copies of these two documents are also inclosed.

A note which I have just received from my Russian colleague informs me that his Government have decided to accept the request of the Turkish Government to add their Consul at Erzeroum to the Commission of Inquiry, and have authorized him to come to an understanding with the French Ambassador and myself as to the extent of the powers to be intrusted to our Consuls.

I have, &c
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 473.

Sir P. Currie to Said Pasha.

Constantinople, December 12, 1894.

M. le Ministre,

I REFERRED to my Government the statement which you made to me on the 15th instant that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan consented to the nomination of a British Consular officer to the Sassoon Commission. On the 7th instant I had the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to agree that a British Consul should accompany the Commission, provided that it was clearly understood that he would have the right of addressing inquiries to the witnesses, and making a separate and independent Report to Her Majesty's Government, which would be communicated by them to the Sublime Porte and the other Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

Your Excellency accepted these terms on the same evening, and I have now the honour, by order of my Government, to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government formally accept the proposal of the Ottoman Government on the conditions stated above, and have selected for the purpose Mr. Graves, Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum.

Her Majesty's Government trust that if any other of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin should wish to send Consuls to accompany the Commission, the Sublime Porte will make no difficulty as to their doing so.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 473.

Said Pasha to Sir P. Currie.

Le 12 Décembre, 1894.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser aujourd'hui pour m'informer que le Gouvernement accepte la proposition de la Sublime Porte de faire accompagner la Commission d'Enquête de Sassoun d'un Consul Britannique et que son choix s'est porté sur Mr. Graves, Consul de Sa Majesté à Erzeroum.

Votre Excellence voudra bien se rappeler qu'à la suite de la proposition faite au début par moi d'adjoindre un Consul Britannique à la Commission d'Enquête, j'avais eu l'honneur de l'entretenir plus tard de l'idée d'y adjoindre également Messieurs les Consuls de France et de Russie à Erzeroum. Votre Excellence y avait acquiescée à la condition que les Ambassades de France et de Russie y donneraient leur assentiment et m'avait promis d'écrire immédiatement à Londres. De notre côté, nous en avons entretenu les Ambassades de France et de Russie à Constantinople qui en ont déjà référé à leurs Gouvernements respectifs, ce dont votre Excellence avait été prévenue par moi.

Dès lors votre Excellence conviendra certainement que notre seconde proposition à laquelle elle avait adhérée ayant modifié la première qui fait aujourd'hui l'objet de sa note précitée, nous devons attendre la réponse du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à notre dernière proposition énoncée ci-dessus.

J'espère, M. l'Ambassadeur, que vous voudrez bien nous faire part du résultat de vos démarches à cet égard, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) SAID.

Inclosure 3 in No. 473.

Sir P. Currie to Said Pasha.

Constantinople, December 13, 1894.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of yesterday respecting the appointment of Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to accompany the Bitlis Commission, and feel it my duty to lose no time in rectifying a misunderstanding which appears to have arisen.

My communication of the 7th to your Excellency, whilst stating that Her Majesty's Government reserved their final answer to your proposal until they had consulted the Powers, in no way fettered their liberty of action as to the eventual acceptance of it. The two propositions referred to in your Excellency's note under acknowledgment were entirely distinct, and nothing has been said or done to detract from the force of the proposal which your Excellency made me on the 5th.

That proposal, after full consideration, my Government have resolved to accept and have instructed me so to inform your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 474.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 576.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 13, 1894.

THE Armenian Patriarchate state that the Catholics of Echmiadzin was recently summoned to Tiflis to confer with the Governor-General of the Caucasus, and that, as a result of these deliberations, he proposes to proceed to St. Petersburgh at the head of an Armenian deputation to address the Emperor on the subject of the wrongs suffered by his co-religionists in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 475.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord,

Berlin, December 12, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 67 and 68 of yesterday's date, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have to-day addressed to Baron von Marschall containing their substance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Sir E. Malet to Baron von Marschall.

Berlin, December 12, 1894.

M. le Ministre,

WITH reference to the communication which I had the honour to make to your Excellency on the 7th instant in regard to the affairs of Armenia, I beg to inform you that Said Pasha having accepted the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government were prepared to allow the British Consul at Erzeroum to take part in the Commission of Inquiry into the recent events at Bitlis, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to inform the Porte, officially, that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposal that the British Consul should accompany the Commission. His

Excellency has, in addition, been instructed to express the hope that no difficulty will be made by the Porte if any other of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin should also wish to send Consular officers.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 476.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 14, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 334 of the 12th instant, and to report that I have this day communicated, in strict confidence, to the German Government, by a note addressed to Baron von Marschall, the three documents inclosed in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 477.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 266.)
My Lord, *Berlin, December 15, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 74, 75, and 76, on the subject of Armenia, and to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have this day addressed to Baron von Marschall in obedience to your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 477.

Sir E. Malet to Baron von Marschall.

Berlin, December 15, 1894.

M. le Ministre,

WITH reference to my note of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that France and Russia have agreed to take part in the inquiry into the recent events at Bitlis, and that at a meeting of the three Ambassadors at Constantinople it was decided to recommend that the Consuls at Erzeroum should not accompany the Commission themselves, but should send delegates, who will be present at all the proceedings of the Commission to watch and control it. The Ambassadors consider that this arrangement will offer more satisfactory guarantees than the presence of the Consuls themselves. They are of opinion that the Consuls, if they were to go themselves, would find it impossible, on account on their status, not to undertake the direction of the inquiry, and they think that an Ottoman inquiry controlled by Europeans offers more chance of success than a European inquiry impeded by Ottomans.

Lord Kimberley has replied that Her Majesty's Government consent to the arrangement proposed, in order to secure joint action, though they would prefer sending the Consuls as originally agreed with the Porte. The paramount point being to obtain the strictest security for a thorough and complete inquiry, the right of the delegates to address questions directly to the witnesses should be reserved.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 478.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 316.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 12, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 42 of the 11th instant, I have this day addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Government on the subject of the recent massacres in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 478.

Sir E. Monson to Count Kálnoky.

M. le Comte, *Vienna, December 12, 1894.*

I HAD the honour on the 7th instant to communicate to your Excellency the substance of a telegram addressed to me by the Earl of Kimberley in relation to the action taken by Her Majesty's Government, through the Queen's Ambassador at Constantinople, in protesting against the manner in which the Turkish Government announced the appointment of the Commission to inquire into the reports of horrible massacres in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

As your Excellency is aware, the announcement that the Commission was to inquire into the acts of the Armenian brigands deprived the inquiry by anticipation of the necessary characteristics of completeness and impartiality.

Upon receiving this protest, the Sultan offered that a British Consular officer should be nominated on the Commission.

Her Majesty's Government, in view of the fact that three Powers only, viz., Great Britain, France, and Russia, have Consuls at Erzeroum, instructed Sir Philip Currie to inform his French and Russian colleagues of this proposal, and to state that they were disposed to agree that the British Consul should accompany the Commission on the condition that he should have the right of addressing inquiries to the witnesses, and of making an independent report to his Government, which would be communicated by them to the Porte and to the Powers. Sir P. Currie was to suggest at the same time to his two colleagues that their Governments should also urge their Consuls to accompany the Commission in the same way.

The conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government, as above explained, were accepted by the Turkish Government, and Said Pasha notified this acceptance to Sir P. Currie on the 7th instant.

Her Majesty's Government have therefore now instructed the Ambassador to inform the Porte officially this day that they accept the proposal that the British Consul at Erzeroum should accompany the Bitlis Commission on the aforesaid conditions.

The Ambassador is also to state to the Porte that if the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin should wish to send Consular officers, Her Majesty's Government hope that no difficulty will be made by that of Turkey.

In bringing to your Excellency's notice the present condition of the negotiations which have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Sultan on this question, I think it convenient to add that, as your Excellency, having learned from my communication of the 7th instant that Her Majesty's Government would welcome the co-operation of as many of the Great Powers as possible, was so good as to state to me verbally that you were in perfect agreement with them as to the expediency of enlisting such co-operation, I did not fail to report this expression of your opinion to the Earl of Kimberley, pointing out, however, that, as is already known at the Foreign Office, the Austro-Hungarian Government have no Consular officer at Erzeroum who could be associated in the work of the Commission.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 479.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 322. Most Confidential.)
Vienna, December 13, 1894.

My Lord,

FROM the various conversations which I have had during the last week with Count Kálnoky on the subject of the Bitlis massacres, I have no doubt that his Excellency accepts as true the reports forwarded to him by his Consul at Trebizond, which he tells me are in substantial agreement with those made to your Lordship and to Sir Philip Currie from the British Consulate at Erzeroum.

From the moment that these horrors were first heard of, his Excellency said that he feared that, if they turned out to be true, they would give more serious trouble than anything which has for some time occurred in the East; and upon each successive occasion on which the subject has been discussed between us I have noticed that his apprehensions have become more marked. Grave as appear to him to be the political objections to the interference of the European Powers in the internal affairs of Turkey, he has at once admitted that, in such a case as this, the interests of humanity are so deeply involved as to justify incontrovertibly the attitude of Her Majesty's Government. He has indeed not hesitated to go further, and to express his clear opinion that it is advisable that as many Powers as possible should be associated in the task of examining into the truth of the almost incredible cruelties laid to the charge of the Turks. In the note which I myself placed in his hands yesterday, and a copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 316 of yesterday's date, I quoted this expression of his opinion, and his Excellency, on reading it, reaffirmed his view.

Unfortunately, the Austro-Hungarian Government has no Consul at Erzeroum who could have taken part in the investigation. Their only Consular officer in the northern region of Asia Minor is an honorary official, stationed at Trebizond. His reports are, as I have stated above, confirmatory of the worst that can be said of the barbarities of the Turks; but they are derived from purely indirect sources. This gentleman, however, gives it as his opinion that the Commission will obtain no trustworthy evidence, as the reign of terror will silence all possible witnesses.

Whether Count Kálnoky does not experience a certain amount of relief from the fact that he is materially unable to send a Consular Representative to the scene of these crimes, I can neither affirm nor deny. That he feels most strongly the horror which they must inspire throughout the civilized world is evident; but he does not attempt to conceal that he foresees that great embarrassments will be caused if the truth of the atrocities is established.

He informs me that he has answered every inquiry as to what is to happen in that case by saying that the primary object must be the exemplary punishment of the guilty parties. As to the possibility of devising means to prevent the recurrence of such crimes he has been very reticent.

He has spoken to me more than once of the energetic efforts made from Constantinople to persuade the European public that the reports are either absolute untruths or gross exaggerations, and has said that these efforts have been in many places attended with considerable success. With his usual outspoken contempt for the Austrian and Hungarian press, he has remarked that the newspapers are almost entirely in the hands of the Jews, who all have their price; and he has pointed out to me the readiness with which even the principal journals of the two capitals have joined in the sneers against English philanthropy.

To the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, who has been commissioned to deny the truth of the massacres and to lay the blame of all the trouble on the Armenian Committees, and especially on that installed in London, he has replied that the consonance of the reports sent from various sources indicate the accuracy of their compilers, and that, to charge the Armenian Committees with the responsibility of provoking the destruction of thousands of their fellows, is a transparent absurdity.

Attaching as he does so much importance to the united action of Russia and England in this matter, he will doubtless be disappointed at the view of M. Nélidoff that the connection of the Consuls with the Commission should be limited to a simple control exercised from Erzeroum. But he has been unable to find time to give me an interview since I received your Lordship's telegram repeating what Sir Philip Currie says on this point, and I shall not be able to see him until to-morrow afternoon, at a time inconveniently near the departure of the messenger. I do not think that he would care, however, to make much effort to influence the Russian Government in opposition to the advice of their Ambassador at Constantinople.

With regard to ulterior proceedings, he makes no secret of his dislike to concur in an appeal to the Treaty of Berlin. Speaking on the subject of that Treaty yesterday, he was extremely severe in his criticism of the entire instrument, but said that, defective as it is, it had in its way served the purpose for which it was designed, and that, although some day it would have to be replaced by a new Conventional Arrangement, any such change should be delayed as long as possible, and therefore the less reference made to it the better.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 480.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 323.)
Vienna, December 14, 1894.

My Lord,

MGR. AGLIARDI, the Papal Nuncio, whom I met at a dinner party last night, said that he had been looking forward to seeing me in order to speak to me about the action of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Bitlis massacres.

The Pope, said his Eminence, takes the most lively interest in this question, the Holy Father's co-operation in coming to their aid having been invoked by the Armenians, and he (the Nuncio) would be very grateful for any information which I could give him with regard to the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government as to their participation in the inquiry to be conducted by the Turkish Commission.

I gave his Excellency in confidence a sketch of the situation as derived from your Lordship's telegrams, and I said that I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government, representing as they do the strongly-moved sentiment of the English public, will leave no means untried to make the inquiry a real and searching one, and that they would welcome the sympathy of the Pope in their efforts in this direction.

The Nuncio, whose experiences as Apostolic Vicar representing His Holiness in India have inspired with a most pronounced and outspoken Anglophilism, said that the action of Her Majesty's Government was one more example of the generous instincts of a nation which is continually giving practical proof of the falsity of the charge of being amenable only to the prompting of selfish and interested motives, and that it must be with gratification that Christians of every denomination see the readiness with which that nation comes to the assistance of an oppressed nationality without any reference to difference of race and creed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 481.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 325. Confidential.)
Vienna, December 14, 1894.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Count Kálnoky this afternoon, and communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 14 and 15 of the day before yesterday, recording what had passed between Sir P. Currie and M. de Nélidoff respecting the participation of the Consuls at Erzeroum in the Bitlis Inquiry, and your Lordship's consequent instructions to Sir Philip.

Count Kálnoky said that he entirely agreed with your Lordship that any attempt to control from Erzeroum the progress of the inquiry in the Vilayet of Bitlis would be futile. He believed, however, that the Russian Government shared this view, and that the French did the same, and that they had already, in principle, agreed to adopt the line taken by Her Majesty's Government, subject to final arrangements to be made by their respective Ambassadors at Constantinople in conjunction with Her Majesty's Representatives.

All the Powers are interested, said his Excellency, in preventing this question from becoming a serious political one; but the Powers most interested are England and Russia, and those two must, if possible, come to an understanding upon it. No one else need interfere if they are of one mind.

Count Kálnoky pointed out that one passage in Sir P. Currie's report of M. de Nélidoff's observations indicated future joint European action, namely, the passage in which it is stated that the report may serve as a basis for the decision of the Powers; and he said that it is premature to assume that any such joint action would be necessary.

Although he did not say so explicitly, I imagine that he foresees that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to overcome the professed indifference of Germany to Eastern questions, and to get the Cabinet of Berlin to take any other line than that of ignoring them altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 482.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 432.)
My Lord, *Paris, December 16, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 101 of the 14th instant, I have communicated to the French Government the substance of Sir Philip Currie's telegram No. 241, and your Lordship's reply, respecting the Commission appointed to inquire into the alleged massacres of Armenians in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 483.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 17, 1894, 11·50 A.M.*

THE Commission started yesterday from Erzeroum.

No. 484.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 17, 1894, 7·45 P.M.*

A DRAFT of the instructions which the Sultan proposes to send to the Commission was this morning unofficially submitted to the Russian and French Ambassadors and myself for our opinion.

The Sultan sent a Secretary for the purpose.

We have decided to send them back with a statement that we are not able to deviate from the lines laid down in our communication to Said Pasha, mentioned in telegram No. 245 from this Embassy.

The instructions were not satisfactory as far as the part to be taken by the Delegates is concerned.

No. 485.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 253.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 17, 1894, 8 P.M.*

REFERRING to my telegram No. 246, my French and Russian colleagues are of opinion that serious disturbances might be produced by the dispatch of Consuls, and their instructions strictly limit them to sending Delegates.

They consider that a fresh agreement must be arrived at as to what steps should be taken if the inquiry as at present arranged turns out unsatisfactory.

In their opinion, the common arrangement would be invalidated if I were to make a separate reservation of our right to send our Consuls.

No. 486.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 17, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 248 of yesterday relative to Said Pasha's anxiety for the withdrawal of the communication of Mr. Hallward's despatch of the 6th ultimo.

Her Majesty's Government considered that they ought not to withhold from the Turkish Government the further particulars furnished by Mr. Hallward in connection with the reported outrages.

If, however, the Minister for Foreign Affairs objects to receiving an official communication on the subject on the ground that arrangements had already been made by the Sultan for an inquiry on the spot by a Commission appointed for the purpose, and that special facilities are being given by His Majesty to Delegates of several of the Powers to see that the inquiry is conducted in an impartial manner, your Excellency may agree to the information in question being considered as a verbal communication.

No. 487.

Foreign Office to Anglo-Armenian Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 17, 1894.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Earl of Kimberley your letter of the 7th instant, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed by the Anglo-Armenian Association to the Ambassadors of Russia, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy in regard to the condition of the Armenians in Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 488.

Mr. Egerton to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Athens, December 12, 1894.*

SEEING in the English papers mention of refugees from Sassoon in Armenia having arrived in Athens, I questioned M. Tricoupi, who told me that he, being also curious on the subject, had caused inquiry to be made by the police respecting the Armenians now in Athens, and they appear in all to be but two or three individuals, the same probably who, ten days ago, left with me a Memorial calling attention to the sufferings of their countrymen, which I did not forward to your Lordship, as it appeared merely a vague statement of three obscure, ollicious, and non-representative persons.

As the present "Times" correspondent in Athens is the son of a Greek Protestant minister in the pay of an American Missionary Society, and American missions are

active in Armenia, this may account for the allusions from him in that paper to the Armenians.

One of the three individuals who form the Armenian Colony in Athens at one time published a small newspaper which the late Turkish Minister, Gadban Effendi, was anxious to stop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 489.

Anglo-Armenian Association to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 18.)

London, December 18, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, three Resolutions passed at a public meeting held last night at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, S.W., convened by the Anglo-Armenian Association for the purpose of protesting against the continuance of oppressions in Asiatic Turkey, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS SEYMOUR STEVENSON,
President, Anglo-Armenian Association, Chairman of the Meeting.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Resolutions passed at a Public Meeting, convened by the Anglo-Armenian Association on Monday, December 17, 1894, at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, London.

1. THAT this meeting, bearing in mind the oppression and misrule which have prevailed in Asiatic Turkey for the last sixteen years, and which have culminated in the massacres and accompanying barbarities perpetrated by Turkish troops in the Sassoon district, hereby records its indignation at the Porte's continued violation of the principles of humanity and defiance of international obligations, deeply deplores the fact that the LXIst Article of the Berlin Treaty has been allowed, owing to the indifference of the Signatory Powers, to remain so long inoperative, and calls upon Her Majesty's Government, in view of the obligations incurred by this country under that Treaty, as well as by virtue of the Cyprus Convention, to take the initiative in insisting upon the immediate introduction of definite and thorough reforms in the administration of the Armenian provinces.

2. That this meeting, whilst desirous that an International Consular Commission should conduct a full inquiry into the recent outrages in the Sassoon district and into similar occurrences elsewhere, and whilst anxious that adequate precautions should be taken to insure the present and future safety of all the witnesses, is of opinion that the mere punishment of a few persons, more or less responsible, would leave the general situation unchanged, and that what is really required is concerted and vigorous action on the part of the Powers chiefly concerned, with the object of effecting, in the interests of humanity, justice, and peace, a permanent improvement in the condition of Armenia, and of giving to the Christian inhabitants security for their faith, their lives, their honour, and their property.

3. That this meeting regrets that Consular Reports relating to Armenian affairs have been withheld from Parliament since the year 1889, and urges that all such Reports be at once published, and specially calls for the issue of early information relating to the cases of the Bishops, priests, pastors, schoolmasters, and others who, without trial, or after mock trials, have been confined in Turkish prisons and subjected to cruel usage, or executed, or exiled.

(Signed) FRANCIS SEYMOUR STEVENSON,
Chairman.

No. 490.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 18, 1894, 11·40 A.M.*

REFERRING to the telegram No. 254 from this Embassy,* my French and Russian colleagues apprehend great difficulty with the Sultan in regard to direct interrogation by Delegates, and seemed partially inclined to give way on this point.

They were very particular that the inquiry should not be extended outside of the Sassoon occurrences.

No. 491.

Sir E. Monson to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Vienna, December 18, 1894.*

A TELEGRAM from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople has been received by Count Kálnoky, in which it is suggested to propose to the Russian Government that Italy should be admitted to share in the control of the Commission of Inquiry into the alleged Armenian massacres.

The declaration made by the Austro-Hungarian Government that they would abstain from taking part precludes them, according to Count Kálnoky, from making this suggestion; and he recommends that a hint should be given to the Turkish Government to invite the co-operation of Italy.

I have telegraphed the substance of the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 492.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 18, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 253 of to-day, stating that your French and Russian colleagues hesitate to insist upon our right to send our Consuls to attend the Bitlis Commission if the inquiry does not appear to be proceeding satisfactorily.

Her Majesty's Government have somewhat reluctantly agreed to the proposal to send Delegates instead of the Consuls to attend the Commission, but they deem it very important to reserve the right of the Consuls to proceed to the inquiry in person. It would naturally be a matter for discussion and agreement between the three Powers whether this right should be exercised or not as the occasion arose. But Her Majesty's Government think it necessary to retain this lever for exercising pressure on the Porte in the case of any difficulties arising between the Turkish Commissioners and the Delegates of the three Governments. The Turkish Government can hardly object at the present stage to our stipulating for this right, as it is in accordance with a proposal which emanated from themselves. We may, however, find it difficult to assert it at a later period if it is allowed now to lapse.

I will communicate in this sense with Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and St. Petersburgh.

No. 493.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.†

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 18, 1894.*

IT is necessary, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, to reserve their right to send Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to attend the Turkish Commission in

* Not printed (see No. 538).
† Also to the Marquis of Dufferin (No. 103).

the event of the reports from the Delegates showing that the inquiry is not proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

It appears from a telegram from Sir P. Currie that the French and Russian Ambassadors state that this point does not come within the scope of their instructions, and are not inclined to insist upon it.

Please address M. de Giers in the sense of my reply to Sir P. Currie, which I have repeated to you, and press his Excellency to issue instructions in accordance with our wishes.

No. 494.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 256.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1894, 11 A.M.

I HAVE received this morning a communication from the Sultan through Munir Bey, inquiring if the dismissal of the officials mentioned in my Memorandum to the Sultan, and their trial by court-martial, would satisfy Her Majesty's Government, the Commission of Inquiry to be held, but without the Delegates.

In replying to the proposal, of which the terms were very vague, I said that Her Majesty's Government had insisted on a searching inquiry, and that they would not give it up, and that the proposal could not be considered unless it were put into a formal shape. My advice to the Sultan was to carry out his engagements faithfully.

The American Minister is still insisting on the independent mission of inquiry of the United States' Consul at Sivas, and the participation of the Italians in the inquiry has still to be discussed. I am not without fear that the arrangement so nearly come to may fall to the ground if our joint action with France and Russia is not maintained.

No. 495.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1894, 11·10 A.M.

WITH reference to the Foreign Office telegram No. 130 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that the instructions which the Russian and French Ambassadors received absolutely debar them, as they have already informed me, from making any such reservation as is desired by Her Majesty's Government.

I am therefore unable, until their instructions have been modified, to do anything in the matter without disturbing our joint action. I am of opinion that, as far as Turkey is concerned, there will not be any special objection to the Consuls as compared to the Delegates. The liberty to accept the Porte's proposal for the dispatch of our Consul was reserved in the note I sent to Said Pasha on the 13th December, of which I sent home a copy in my despatch No. 575.

No. 496.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1894, 12·15 P.M.

MR. BLOCK and the Dragomans of the French and Russian Embassies will to-day ask at the Porte for an answer to the joint communication which I telegraphed to your Lordship in my telegram No. 245 of the 15th instant.

At the same time they will request that telegraphic orders may be sent to the Commission that they are not, before the arrival of the Delegates, to proceed any further, or to hold any inquiries. They will notify that we shall consider as null and void any inquiries so held.

No. 497.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 259.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December* 19, 1894, 10·10 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 256, I received a visit this evening from Kiamil Pasha, the ex-Grand Vizier, who came by order of the Sultan to confer with me in regard to the Sassoon inquiry. He asked whether the proposed suspension and trial by court-martial of the accused functionaries would not be acceptable. I said that the appointment of a court-martial at the present moment would be considered merely as a device to evade the inquiry, but that in my opinion it would be desirable to suspend the functionaries during the inquiry of the Commission.

I pointed out to Kiamil Pasha that the Sultan's only course was to make the inquiry as full and searching as possible, and in this his Highness seemed to concur. He said that the reports of Zeki Pasha, which he had read, exonerated the troops from all blame in the matter.

Kiamil Pasha has been for three years practically a prisoner, but seems to entertain some hopes of returning to office.

He takes a very gloomy view of the present state of affairs.

No. 498.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December* 19, 1894.

AT the request of Count Kapnist, to whom I have communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 130 and 131, I have addressed a note to the Russian Government as to the question of how far the right of sending Consuls to attend the Bitlis Commission should be reserved.

I propose sending to-morrow a copy of this note to your Lordship.

I was also informed confidentially by Count Kapnist that a request had been received from the Italian Ambassador for instructions to be sent to M. de Nélidoff that he should support Italy's claim to participate in the Commission and in the discussions that were taking place at Constantinople between the three Ambassadors.

To this he had replied that, provided the Porte should wish an Italian to accompany the Commission, his Government would raise no objection, but that they were not disposed to support this claim, as they were anxious that everything which might have the appearance of giving political importance to the inquiry should be avoided.

No. 499.

Mr. Egerton to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 181.)
My Lord, *Athens, December* 13, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180 of yesterday, in which I informed your Lordship that M. Tricoupi told me that he had reason to disbelieve the reports that a certain number of Armenian refugees had come to Athens, I find that the Turkish Minister, who takes care to be informed of the arrivals here from Asia Minor, says M. Tricoupi is in error, and that more than twenty Armenians have arrived here lately in destitute circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 500.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 261.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 20, 1894, 4·45 P.M.*

REFERRING to my telegram No. 258 to your Lordship, I have just received a visit from Said Pasha. He had been sent by the Sultan to endeavour once more to get rid of the Delegates. After I had assured him that this was quite impossible, I understood from him that Turkey would now accept our programme.

The Mission of the American Consul is now causing embarrassment, and is useless under present circumstances. Said Pasha begged me as a special favour, in return for the Turkish acceptance of our proposal, to ask for your Lordship's help in getting the United States' Government to cease from pressing it. My reply was that it would be difficult for England to interfere, but that I would communicate his request to your Lordship.

No. 501.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 20, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 256 of the 19th instant, reporting the Sultan's anxiety to free himself from the condition that foreign Delegates should attend the Bitlis Commission, and I approve your language to Munir Bey on the subject.

It would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to abandon the arrangement for an impartial and thorough investigation of the facts.

No. 502.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 162.) *Foreign Office, December 20, 1894.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 316 of the 12th instant, forwarding a copy of the note which, in accordance with your instructions, your Excellency addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Government with regard to the arrangements in progress at Constantinople for the presence of Consular officers with the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry.

I approve the terms of your Excellency's communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 503.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 262.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 21, 1894, 10·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 258 of the 19th December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that His Imperial Majesty has given way at last with regard to the position of the foreign Delegates on the Commission.

It is provided in the instructions to the Commission, which were communicated to the three Dragomans this afternoon by Said Pasha, that the *procès-verbaux* of the Commission will be shown to the Delegates, and that they will be asked for their observations. The Delegates will be present at the proceedings of the Commission, and will have a right to ask, through the President, questions of the witnesses, and, in case of need, to put questions themselves.

The French Delegate, who is an Embassy Dragoman, starts from here to-morrow, and I shall forward by the same steamer instructions and cyphers in charge of

the messenger for Teheran, who goes viâ Trebizond, whence they will be forwarded by Consul Longworth to Erzeroum by special messenger.

Abdullah Pasha is to be recalled, and two functionaries of the Ministry of Justice appointed to preside over the Commission. They will start at once to join the other Turkish members.

No. 504.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 21, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 259 of the 19th instant relative to the Bitlis Commission.

The language which you held to Kiamil Pasha, as reported therein, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 505.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 21, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 261 of yesterday respecting a request made to you by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government would endeavour to dissuade the Government of the United States from persisting in their demand for an investigation of the occurrences in the Sassoon district by one of their Consular officers.

I regret that I am not able to comply with the wishes of the Porte in this respect. The proposal emanated from the Porte, and Her Majesty's Government, having strongly urged the Government of the United States to agree to it, are unable now to recommend the adoption of an entirely opposite course.

No. 506.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(No. 230.) *Foreign Office, December 21, 1894.*

Sir,

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 231, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, recording his interview with the Secretary of State in regard to the proposed presence of an American Delegate at the inquiry into the truth of the reported massacres in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I notice that towards the end of that interview Mr. Goschen stated that it was evident from my language that the Delegate would not be expected to draw up a general report of the whole circumstances, but merely to sign that of the Commissioners as evidence that the work of the Commission had been carried out, to the best of his belief, in an impartial spirit, and in the manner best calculated to arrive at the truth.

I must point out that this interpretation of the wording of the instructions in my telegram No. 132 of the 2nd instant conveyed a misapprehension of my meaning. Her Majesty's Government have from the first desired to obtain a report independent of that of the Commission, and it was with this view that in my telegram above mentioned it was expressly stipulated, as one of the conditions on which the Sultan's proposal would be accepted, that the American Delegate should be "free to report independently on any points on which he differed from the Commissioners."

Although the situation has now changed, it is desirable to place on record the complete explanation of the intention of Her Majesty's Government, which was summarized in my telegraphic instruction to Mr. Goschen on the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY

No. 507.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Washington, December 14, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of the inclosed Message from the President of the United States to the Senate respecting the alleged cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey.

Your Lordship will perceive that President Cleveland states that the United States' Government were invited by the Sublime Porte to join the investigation to be set on foot by the Ottoman Government on the 2nd December, but that this invitation was at first declined.

On reconsideration of the subject, however, it was determined to send Mr. Jewett, United States' Consul at Sivas, to the scene of the alleged outrages, not for the purpose of joining with any other Government in an investigation, but to the end that he might be able to inform his Government as to the exact truth of the alleged cruelties.

I have since received your Lordship's telegram of the 12th instant, informing me of the communication made by the Porte to the United States' Minister at Constantinople, which may modify the proposed action of the President in regard to the proposed investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 507.

Extract from the "Congressional Record" of December 12, 1894.

ALLEGED CRUELTIES IN TURKEY.—The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following Message from the President of the United States, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed:—

"To the Senate of the United States:

"I have received a copy of the following Resolution of the Senate passed on the 3rd instant:—

"'*Resolved*,—That the President be requested, if in his judgment it be not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate any information he may have received in regard to alleged cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey, and especially whether any such cruelties have been committed upon citizens who have declared their intention to become naturalized in this country, or upon persons because of their being Christians.

"'And, further, to inform the Senate whether any expostulations have been addressed by this Government to the Government of Turkey in regard to such matters, or any proposals made by or to this Government to act in concert with other Christian Powers regarding the same.'

"In response to said Resolution, I beg leave to inform the Senate that I have no information concerning cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey or upon persons because of their being Christians, except such information as has been derived from newspapers and statements emanating from the Turkish Government denying such cruelties, and two telegraphic reports from our Minister at Constantinople.

"One of these reports, dated the 28th November, 1894, is in answer to an inquiry by the State Department touching reports in the press alleging the killing of Armenians, and is as follows:—

"'Reports in American papers of Turkish atrocities at Sassoun are sensational and exaggerated. The killing was in a conflict between armed Armenians and Turkish soldiers. The Grand Vizier says it was necessary to suppress insurrection, and that about fifty Turks were killed; between 300 and 400 Armenian guns were picked up after the fight; and reports that about that number of Armenians were killed. I give credit to his statement.'

"The other despatch referred to is dated the 2nd December, 1894, and is as follows:—

"'Information from British Ambassador indicates far more loss of lives in Armenia attended with atrocities than stated in my telegram of the 28th.'

"I have received absolutely no information concerning any cruelties committed 'upon citizens who have declared their intention to become naturalized in this country,' or upon any persons who had a right to claim or have claimed for any reason the protection of the United States' Government.

"In the absence of such authentic detailed knowledge on the subject as would justify our interference, no 'expostulations have been addressed by this Government to the Government of Turkey in regard to such matters.'

"The last inquiry contained in the Resolution of the Senate touching these alleged cruelties seeks information concerning 'any proposals made by or to this Government to act in concert with other Christian Powers regarding the same.'

"The first proposal of the kind referred to was made by the Turkish Government through our Minister on the 30th day of November, when the Sultan then expressed a desire that a Consul of the United States be sent with a Turkish Commission to investigate these alleged atrocities on Armenians. This was construed as an invitation on the part of the Turkish Government to actually take part with a Turkish Commission in an investigation of these affairs and any report to be made thereon, and the proposition came before our Minister's second despatch was received, and at a time when the best information in the possession of our Government was derived from his first report, indicating that the statements made in the press were sensational and exaggerated, and that the atrocities alleged really did not exist. This condition very much weakened any motive for an interference based on considerations of humanity, and permitted us without embarrassment to pursue a course plainly marked out by other controlling incidents.

"By a Treaty entered into at Berlin in the year 1878 between Turkey and various other Governments, Turkey undertook to guarantee protection to the Armenians, and agreed that it would 'periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who will superintend their application.'

"Our Government was not a party to this Treaty, and it is entirely obvious that, in the face of the provisions of such Treaty above recited, our interference in the proposed investigation, especially without the invitation of any of the Powers which had assumed by Treaty obligations to secure the protection of these Armenians, might have been exceedingly embarrassing, if not entirely beyond the limits of justification or propriety.

"The Turkish invitation to join the investigation set on foot by that Government was therefore on the 2nd day of December declined. On the same day, and after this declination had been sent, our Minister at Constantinople forwarded his second despatch, tending to modify his former report as to the extent and character of Armenian slaughter. At the same time, the request of the Sultan for our participation in the investigation was repeated, and Great Britain, one of the Powers which joined in the Treaty of Berlin, made a like request.

"In view of changed conditions, and upon reconsideration of the subject, it was determined to send Mr. Jewett, our Consul at Sivas, to the scene of the alleged outrages, not for the purpose of joining with any other Government in an investigation and report, but to the end that he might be able to inform this Government as to the exact truth.

"Instructions to this effect were sent to Mr. Jewett, and it is supposed he has already entered upon the duty assigned him.

"I submit with this communication copies of all correspondence and despatches in the State Department on this subject, and the Report to me of the Secretary of State thereon.

(Signed) "GROVER CLEVELAND.

"*Executive Mansion, December 11, 1894.*"

No. 508.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 22, 1894, 2·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 262 from this Embassy.

This morning the French and Russian Ambassadors met here.

Our Dragomans have been sent to ask Said Pasha for facilities to enable our Delegates to travel and communicate by cypher telegrams.

Later on we intend to ask that the Vali be suspended.

We have also communicated to Said Pasha our joint instructions to the Delegates of which your Lordship approved in your telegram No. 142.

No. 509.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 264.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 22, 1894, 5·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 262 of the 21st December, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, owing to a delay in the departure of the steamer, the new members of the Bitlis Commission will leave on Monday, when our messenger and the French Delegate will also start.

The names of the new members are Jelalladin Bey, who is President of the Correctional Section of the Court of Appeal, and Shefik Bey, President of the Section of Requests of the Court of Cassation.

The latter will be the President of the Commission. They are neither of them persons of any eminence.

No. 510.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 22, 1894.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 262 of yesterday relative to the position of the foreign delegates on the Bitlis Commission, and I approve the arrangements reported therein.

The important point is that the delegates should join the Commission without delay. Other questions connected with the inquiry can form the subject of separate discussion.

No. 511.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 407.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 567 of the 8th instant, forwarding details with respect to the trial of certain Armenians of Denek-Maden, who were condemned to penal servitude for life, and the majority of whom are now incarcerated in the Castle of Payaso.

The information obtained by Mr. Consul Cumberbatch tends to show that the Armenians in question were convicted on altogether insufficient evidence, and the sentence passed upon them of penal servitude for life was out of all proportion to the charges brought against them.

I request your Excellency to take any favourable opportunity of representing the facts of this case to the Turkish Government, and procuring, if possible, the reconsideration of the sentence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 512.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(No. 240.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 22, 1894.*

I HAVE received Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 236, Confidential, of the 6th instant, reporting his efforts to obtain the President's sanction to the attendance of an American delegate with the Bitlis Commission of Inquiry, and the interview at

which Mr. Gresham informed him that the President had, on reconsideration, authorized the arrangement.

I have read with pleasure the friendly reference to Her Majesty's Government made by the Secretary of State, and I approve the language used by Mr. Goschen in reply.

I requested Sir Philip Currie at the time to speak in the same sense to the United States' Minister at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 513.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 577. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 16, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo containing remarks on the general condition of the Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 513.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, November 30, 1894.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday's date, instructing me to take such steps as I properly can to obtain the release of the Reverend Kricor Beheneslian and four pupils belonging to the Tarsus Bible Mission, I have the honour to report that I have this morning (Friday) paid an unofficial visit to the Governor-General at his private residence, and solicited his good offices on behalf of these persons, and although his Excellency has promised to make inquiries to-morrow and to let me know his decision as soon as possible, I think it well that I should take advantage of the departure of this afternoon's mail to explain to your Excellency why I feel very doubtful as to the success of my efforts in this matter.

The Governor-General, while disclaiming all knowledge of the detention of Mr. Beheneslian and party, showed a very strong animus against the Armenians in general, saying that he could not find time enough to read all the incriminating documents which were day by day brought before him; that they were full of threats of asserting their rights by fire and sword; that they sang incendiary songs in the streets, and other accusations in the same strain. Unfortunately we have in Hassan Pasha, a Vali, who, although honest, is infirm and quite incapable of governing this large and important vilayet, and still more unfortunate is the presence here of the new Procureur-Général, the well-known Hussni Effendi, late of Angora, with whose action in connection with the trial of Armenians in that city, I believe your Excellency is acquainted. This is the man who has instigated and fomented the persecution of Armenians in this district during the past two or three months.

It is evident that the provincial Governors have received orders to treat the Armenians with the utmost severity, and I can readily understand that Hassan Pasha, infirm in mind and body, and fanatical, should be quite incapable of treating any of these Armenian incidents with fairness. Of course, in the case of Mr. Beheneslian, my difficulty is that the parties being Ottoman subjects, I am unable to press their cause upon the Vali with the same weight which I could exercise in the case of British subjects.

I hope, however, to have reported the result to your Excellency by telegraph long before this despatch reaches your hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY D. BARNHAM.

No. 514.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 580.) *Pera, December* 16, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 534 of the 24th November, I have the honour to transmit copy of a document sent to this Embassy by Said Pasha explaining the case of the Narmun prisoners, and purporting to be the result of communications made by the Sublime Porte with the Commandant of the 4th Army Corps and the authorities of the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

I have sent a copy of this document to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum for observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 514.

Memorandum.

L'AMBASSADE d'Angleterre a remis d'une manière officieuse un écrit pour informer que soixante et un Arméniens des villages de Dikkhas et d'Ekérek se trouvaient détenus depuis l'année 1891 sous l'inculpation d'avoir pris part à l'assassinat de trois Musulmans; que de ces derniers, les deux emprisonnés un moment comme prévenus de meurtre de trois Arméniens de Dikkhas, avaient été plus tard remis en liberté, que les soixante et un Arméniens détenus, représentant la totalité des habitants mâles d'âge moyen des villages précités et le reste de leurs habitants, s'étant rendus au village Russe voisin d'Okhti, leurs terrains avaient été occupés par les Musulmans émigrés de Russie; que trois de ces Arméniens avaient été condamnés par la cour martiale à la peine de mort, et trente à celle de travaux forcés, et qu'à la suite de leurs plaintes et objections, l'Arrêt rendu contre eux avait été infirmé à Constantinople et la dite Cour, invitée à juger de nouveau les prévenus, mais que depuis lors un an et demi s'est écoulé et dix-sept d'entre eux sont morts en prison.

A la suite de cette communication, une correspondance a été échangée à ce sujet avec le Commandant du 4e Corps d'Armée et le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Erzeroum et voici en quoi consistent en résumé les renseignements qui ont été recueillis:

Il y a quelque temps trois Arméniens de Dikkhas et d'Ekérek, qui s'étaient rendus dans les forêts de Namervan, n'étant pas retournés dans leur village, leurs parents avaient fait dans ces forêts des recherches qui n'avaient amené que la découverte de leurs chariots.

Bien qu'il n'ait pu être relevé aucun indice de nature à faire croire que les dits Arméniens avaient été tués, leurs parents ont actionné devant le Tribunal de Tortoum comme auteurs de leur meurtre le fils de Salih Agha, du village de Tchitchó, ainsi que le fils de Hussein, du village de Hassani, et un autre Musulman, sous le prétexte que ceux-ci avaient accompagné les individus disparus. Mais comme aucun témoignage ni preuve n'avaient pu être produits et que les Juges avaient acquis la conviction que les fils de Salih Agha et de Hussein, en égard à leur âge et à leur constitution, ne pouvaient avoir commis les crimes qui leur étaient imputés, le Tribunal avait prononcé conformément aux prescriptions de la loi leur mise en liberté. Les trois Musulmans que l'Ambassade déclare être relâchés après une détention de courte durée ne sont autres que ces deux enfants et leurs compagnons.

Plus tard le Curé de Dikkhas, et un nommé Déli Sako, ont fait venir de Russie le nommé Vartan d'Artvin, et le fils de Kholik d'Olti. Ce dernier connu déjà par ses actes de brigandage et l'assassinat d'un grand nombre de Musulmans, avait été désigné comme chef de la bande des brigands Arméniens déguisés en Mollahs et portant d'autres costumes Musulmans, qui avait été formée aux frais d'un commerçant Arménien de Russie à la suite des incidents de Coum-Capou et d'Erzeroum pour assassiner tout Musulman qu'elle rencontrerait. Une bande de quinze malfaiteurs Arméniens composée de ces deux individus ainsi que d'Alexan de Sayak, des fils de Hevarindji de Timourdji, de Déli Sako, et de quelques autres Arméniens exerçait ces exploits dans les parages de Namervan. Cette bande avait dévalisé plusieurs

Musulmans et fait subir les derniers outrages à quelques femmes Musulmans, dont une est morte à son retour au village de Didé des suites de l'attentat dont elle avait été victime.

Sur ces entrefaites le dit Déli Seko informa Salih Agha qu'il devait congédier le pâtre Hussein qu'il avait à son service faute de quoi il serait perdu. Aussitôt après le pâtre Hussein qui s'était rendu pour affaires à Tortoum fut assassiné.

Salih Agha et les deux fils de Hussein, Maho et Aziz, qui étaient allés à la recherche de Hussein n'étant pas retournés dans leur village, il fut constaté à la suite de l'enquête effectuée à ce sujet, qu'ils avaient été également assassinés avec la dernière cruauté. Leurs yeux avaient été crevés et leurs organes sexuels enlevés et mis dans leurs bouches. Leurs cadavres furent trouvés sur les débris d'une cabane.

Sur les plaintes du fils de Salih Agha, les Arméniens poursuivis de ce chef ont été jugés par la cour martiale: huit d'entre eux ont été condamnés à la peine de mort, quelques autres à celle de travaux forcés, et deux ont été acquittés. Mais par suite de certaines lacunes constatées par la section judiciaire du Seraskerat dans l'interrogatoire et l'instruction, le dossier de cette affaire a été renvoyé à la cour martiale précitée qui en a fait l'objet d'un nouvel examen et l'Arrêt relatif aux diverses peines édictées contre les prévenus est sur le point d'être expédié à Constantinople.

Si l'affaire dont il s'agit a traîné jusqu'à présent, c'est parce que le fils de Kolih, qui est sujet Russe, et qui s'était enfui en Russie n'a pu être arrêté et que les autres prévenus ne s'étaient pas présentés à temps.

Dans l'intervalle treize des détenus sont morts de maladie.

No. 515.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 583.) *Pera, December* 19, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of two official Notices which have appeared in the Turkish press, respecting communications which have been made by the Armenian Catholic Patriarch.

One has reference to Armenian troubles in Cæsarea and Tokat, the other to a Circular issued by Mgr. Azarian, impressing on his community the duty of loyalty to the Ottoman Government.

The Porte is evidently trying to justify its Armenian policy by obtaining the support of the Armenian Catholics. These latter form a community entirely distinct from the Gregorian and Protestant Armenians, by whom they are much disliked; they are commonly known as "Catholics," not as Armenians, and have always been at pains to make it clear that they have no connection with the Armenian national movement. There numbers are variously estimated at from 50,000 to 70,000, and as they inhabit almost exclusively the large towns, they are naturally less exposed than other Armenians to the violence of Kurds and Turkish soldiery.

Mgr. Azarian has stated, confidentially, that the Turkish authorities have made additions to his communications, which materially alter their meaning, and that he much regrets the official publication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 515.

Extract from the "Sabah" of December 16, 1894.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to a communication from the Armenian Catholic Patriarch of the 12th December last, to his Highness the Grand Vizier, a certain Ohannès, of Adana, and pupil of the Armenian Protestant School at Aintab, came to Cæsarea, where he published a pamphlet containing reflections against other religions and especially against Catholic priests, preached openly in the streets with the object of starting a new religion, thereby unsettling people's minds. To put a stop to this state of things the Patriarch's representative at Cæsarea applied to the Assistant Treasurer, who

happened to be there on a tour of inspection, whereupon the pamphlet was seized, and Ohannès, together with a certain Anania, whom he had made his representative at Cesarea, was arrested.

Another communication from the same Patriarch of the 12th December last states that some excitement was caused among the Armenian Catholic community of Tokat by crimes committed by some known Armenians, who attacked the post, forcibly entered the house of an official named Moustafa Effendi, and killed its occupant. The Archbishop of Sivas came to Tokat and, in conjunction with the Government officials, took what steps were necessary.

The Armenian Catholic community there have thanked the Government for the favours received by them at the hands of the Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 515.

Extract from the "Sabah" of December 17, 1894.

(Translation.)

THE Armenian Catholic Patriarch, in a communication to the Grand Vizier on the 12th December last, states that he has sent a Circular to his different representatives in the provinces, strictly enjoining upon the Catholic communities there to obey as heretofore all officials and laws of the Ottoman Government, in no way to be wanting in their duties of fidelity and loyalty, and to offer up prayers for the prosperity of His Majesty and the State.

Many of the Patriarch's representatives in the provinces express their sentiments of gratitude for the favourable attitude of the local authorities towards them.

No. 516.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 586.)

Constantinople, December 19, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the treatment of Armenians at Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 516.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 10, 1894.

Sir,

DR. JEWETT, in his letter of the 4th December, illustrates the working of the Administration at Sivas, by relating how, in a case of burglary, Armenians were made to suffer for Turks. The circumstances of the case may be briefly given thus.

On the 22nd November the house of a Turk named Musta Agha was entered forcibly. Some of the would-be thieves were wounded badly, but he himself and his mother were also hurt, the latter having since died of her injuries. As Musta Agha recognized his own nephew among them, and as traces of blood were found leading to Mussulman houses, five or six Turks of well-known bad character were promptly arrested by the authorities. But, unfortunately, a certain Dikran, a former Armenian servant of the ex-Vali Memdouh Pasha, now at Angora (the irreconcilable enemy and predecessor of Khalil Bey, at Sivas), had the inspiration of accusing himself and some other Armenians of being the real assailants. On this evidence most of the Turks were released, and several Armenians were imprisoned.

The Vali, Khalil Bey, returned from Tokat on the 29th November. He called together six of the more prominent Armenians of Sivas, and talked to them on the state of affairs. He explained away the troubles at Tokat as having simply arisen from the dispatch of an insufficient force against the suspected robber Nishan, who, before doing away with his own life, killed the small body of gendarmes, and thus aroused the fury of the Turks. Though they did a little harm, he added, they were left unpunished by the authorities, so as not to deepen the enmity already existing against the Armenians.

"The Vali further said," I am from here to the end quoting Dr. Jewett's letter, "that the affair at Musta's house was worse than the robbery of the post, and had greatly excited the Turks, and he advised the Armenian Notables, in order that the Turks should not become more excited and cause a massacre, to send a telegram to the Sultan, saying something as follows: 'Among us are certain Armenians who robbed the post, and certain others who went to Musta's house for robbery and murder. We are not in sympathy with any seditious movement. We are glad the Government has prosecuted the offenders, and we beg the Government to go on prosecuting these people whose acts we disapprove.' Most of the Armenians thought they could not sign this telegram because while they are not in sympathy with any seditious movement, they cannot say that Armenians committed the robberies. They fear the wrath of the Vali if they do not sign, and they fear the wrath of the Armenians if they do. Yesterday they had not decided what to do. The Vali told them not to let the Archbishop know about it. It is said that the Armenians accused of the Musta robbery have been severely tortured."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 517.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 293.)

St. Petersburgh, December 18, 1894.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 112 of the 6th instant I did not fail to communicate the substance of it to Count Kapnist, who said that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had telegraphed the reports of the horrible massacres in the Vilayet of Bitlis, and the unsatisfactory manner in which the Porte had announced the appointment of a Commission to inquire into them.

The communication I had made was an invitation on the part of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian Government to send their Consul at Erzeroum to accompany the Turkish Commission, and his Excellency was unable to give me a reply until he should have received instructions from M. de Giers. He would see M. de Giers as soon as possible, but his Excellency had been in such bad health for the last two days that it was doubtful whether he would be able to see him that day.

Count Kapnist said that he understood that the Turkish Government asserted that the Armenians had risen in revolt, and there could be no doubt that there was a movement, which was by no means confined to the Armenians living in Turkey, for the purpose of establishing an independent Armenia, a question which could not be indifferent to the Russian Government, considering the large number of Armenians living on Russian territory, and which he hoped would not be raised.

I have not failed to keep Count Kapnist informed of the substance of the subsequent telegrams which your Lordship has done me the honour to address to me on this subject, and on the 12th instant I had the honour to report by my telegram No. 134 that the Russian Government wished that their Consul at Erzeroum should participate in the inquiry, and that M. de Nélidoff had been instructed to consult with Sir P. Currie as to the position which the Consuls should hold on the Commission. Count Kapnist laid stress upon the fact that the Russian Government wished it to be understood that they had no "arrière-pensée politique" on the subject, and were averse to raising any political question.

In a later interview which I had with Count Kapnist for the purpose of conveying to him the expression of your Lordship's satisfaction at the readiness of the Russian Government to join in the inquiry, and of communicating to him the substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 126 and 127 of the 14th instant, his Excellency explained to me, as I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 135 of the 16th instant, that the Russian Government desired that the inquiry should be conducted in a satisfactory manner, but that they considered that the Ambassadors at Constantinople were in the best position to arrange details as to the position which the

Consuls or their Delegates should have on the Commission, and that instructions had been sent to M. de Nélidoff to come to an understanding with Sir P. Currie on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 518.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 294.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 19, 1894.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 136 of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, at Count Kapnist's request, I have addressed to M. de Giers, informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government thought it necessary to reserve the right of sending Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to attend the Bitlis Commission in person if it should appear from the reports of their Delegates that the Commission is not progressing in a satisfactory manner, and expressing the hope that the Russian Government may see their way to sending instructions in the same sense to their Ambassador at Constantinople.

Count Kapnist said that although he would always be ready to accept any verbal communications, or the Memoranda, which I have been in the habit of leaving with him, of the telegrams which your Lordship has instructed me to communicate to the Russian Government, he thought that a request that instructions in a certain sense should be sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople should be made in a more official form.

I told Count Kapnist that I had no hesitation in complying with his request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 518.

Sir F. Lascelles to M. de Giers.

St. Petersburgh, December 7 (19), 1894.

M. le Ministre,

YOUR Excellency is aware that Her Majesty's Government have accepted the proposal that the Consuls at Erzeroum of Russia, France and England should send Delegates to the Commission which has been appointed to inquire into the alleged atrocities in the Vilayet of Bitlis, instead of accompanying the Commission themselves; but in accepting this proposal, Her Majesty's Government consider it a matter of great importance that the right of sending the Consuls in person should be reserved. It would be a question for discussion and agreement between the three Powers whether this right should or should not be exercised if the occasion should arise, but it appears to Her Majesty's Government to be necessary, in the case of difficulties arising between the Commission and the Delegates, to have this lever for exercising pressure. This right is in accordance with the proposal made by the Turkish Government, who could therefore raise no objection to it at the present stage, but there may be some difficulty in asserting it later on if it should be allowed to lapse now.

It appears from the reports of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that the Russian and French Ambassadors hesitate to insist on this point, and I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider it necessary to reserve the right of sending Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to attend the Commission in person, should it appear from the reports of the Delegates that the Commission is not progressing in a satisfactory manner.

I have also been instructed to express the hope that the Russian Government may see their way to sending instructions in the same sense to their Ambassador at Constantinople.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 519.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 295. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December 19, 1894.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 342, Confidential, of the 12th instant, I handed to Count Kapnist to-day the three despatches from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople forwarding Reports from the British Consular officers at Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir relative to the reported massacres at Sassoon, in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I told Count Kapnist that your Lordship had instructed me to communicate these papers to the Russian Government, in strict confidence, for their information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 520.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, December 24, 1894.*

I AM informed by Count Kapnist, in a private note, that there is no objection on the part of his Government to the eventual participation of the British Consul in the Armenian inquiry, which formed the subject of my preceding telegram.

They desire, however, that a similar right should be reserved to their Consular Representative.

No. 521.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Batoum, December 17, 1894.*

WITH reference to the disturbances which have recently taked place in Turkish Armenia, I have the honour to herewith transmit to your Lordship translation of an article which has been furnished to the "Kavkaz," the official organ of the Trans-Caucasus, by the Trebizond correspondent of that newspaper, purporting to be a correct statement of the causes which have led up to the present troubled state of affairs in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 521.

Extract from the "Kavkaz" of December 1 (13), 1894.

(Translation.)

ALTHOUGH Trebizond is at some distance from those localities where lately was played, and perhaps is even yet being played, the sanguinary drama of the Sassoun and Dalvar incidents, I have nevertheless been able to obtain a mass of reliable information on the subject, and on the basis of the same I will endeavour to give a brief, but at the same time sufficiently complete, and, above all, faithful, sketch of the course of recent events in the district of Moush.

In the year 1893 there resided in the Vilayet of Bitlis, district of Moush, a certain Armenian, named Damadiun, who devoted himself to agitating amongst the Armenians of that locality. On the Turkish authorities making a search for him he went into hiding in Dalvar and the neighbouring villages, but was at last discovered, wounded, and seized, together with several of his partizans. The Turkish Tribunal at Bitlis

condemned him and one of his followers to be hung, and the others to imprisonment for life. Having, by some means or other, become aware of the sentence, Damadian declared that he was in a position to make important disclosures, but that he would only do so to the Sultan himself. After communicating with Constantinople, he was sent thither, and it appears that shortly after his arrival he was set at liberty. The sentences passed on his associates by the Court were carried into execution.

In the summer of 1893, by order of the Vali of Bitlis, two battalions of Turkish troops from Moush and Diarbekir were dispatched for the purpose of cutting off all communication with the Dalvars and their neighbours the Sassouns, in order to starve them into submission. It must be here remarked that expeditions of this sort are of sufficiently common occurrence in those districts, since at the season of the year for levying taxes (which are paid in kind), troops are generally posted round the villages to facilitate the collection. As regards certain mountain fastnesses, such, for instance, as Khekkaria and Sassoun, which are almost inaccessible, and the inhabitants of which are practically semi-independent, and pay to the Turkish Government just whatever suits them, detachments have frequently been sent against them to levy taxes, but as a rule without success. This was the case in the present instance. The inhabitants of the beleaguered places succeeded in procuring provisions with the assistance of the Armenians of the plains of Moush, and when winter set in the regular troops that had been dispatched against the former returned to their quarters without having had any encounters with the population.

But matters did not pass off so peaceably as far as the irregular Kurdish cavalry, called the "Hamidieh," was concerned, which, as is well known, was formed by the Turkish Government two or three years ago from the half-savage tribes of local nomad Kurds. The regiments, or "Alai," of these Kurds are under the leadership of their hereditary Khans; they yield very little obedience to the Turkish Government, and cause infinite trouble both to the Government and to all the peaceable inhabitants on account of their lawless and marauding habits. Naturally, these Hamidieh Kurds are great cattle-stealers, and are continually at feud with the Dalvars, and encounters originating in attempts to drive off cattle are of frequent occurrence. In spite of the presence of regular troops these collisions did not cease to take place, and during the summer of 1893 as many as seventy Kurds and about thirty Armenians were killed in the skirmishes that took place.

In 1894 similar occurrences were repeated. In the beginning of the summer some Hamidieh Kurds of the Moush district attacked Dalvar with the object of carrying off cattle, but were again beaten off, with a loss of four or five men killed. This fact was in itself sufficient to exasperate the Kurds, but there existed another and more potent cause for the deadly hatred of the Kurds for the Armenians. The fact of the matter is that during the present year an exceedingly important, and at the same quite unprecedented, feature was observed, namely, the appearance of an armed band of Armenian robbers, which naturally, by preference, chose its victims from amongst the Kurds.

Thanks to the apathy of the Turkish authorities, almost all the Kurdish Chieftains of the Vilayet of Bitlis, and some of those of Van and Diarbekir, collected a large horde, and with their combined forces attacked the Dalvars and Sassouns. Nevertheless, on this occasion also the assailants were unsuccessful, and, as they assert, lost about 100 killed, whereas the Armenians lost only five or six of their number. The Vali then again sent two battalions to surround the Dalvars and Sassouns, but as was the case last year, minor collisions between the latter and the Kurds were not thereby prevented.

Meanwhile, the resistance offered convinced both the Kurds and the Turkish Administration that the Dalvars were well armed, and it was even stated that there were strangers (foreigners) among their leaders. It was therefore decided to adopt energetic measures. Zekki Pasha, the Mushir, was intrusted with the general arrangements, and by his orders a strong detachment was formed composed of four battalions of regular infantry and six regiments of Hamidieh Kurds (two each from the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir); the command of this detachment was given to a General of Brigade named Osman Pasha. The situation at that time, on account of the alarming symptoms of revolt among the Armenian population, and owing to the insubordination of the Kurds, appeared to the Government to be so serious that as far back as August last the reserves were called out. The Kurdish Hamidieh moved in advance of Osman Pasha's detachment, and again met with resistance; the Dalvars did not, however, oppose the regular troops, their villages were consequently occupied without difficulty. On this occasion many outrages were committed, thirty-two

villages were sacked, many of the inhabitants were put to death (according to rumour several thousands), some scores of young women and girls were carried off as captives by the Kurdish Chiefs; 35,000 head of cattle were driven off, many houses were burnt down, and so much property of all kinds was plundered that it was afterwards sold in Moush for a mere nothing. The Mushir, Zekki Pasha, arrived on the scene shortly after this barbarous chastisement.

On receiving news of what had occurred, the Sultan assigned £T. 500 in aid of the inhabitants of the ruined villages to assist them to rebuild their houses.

While this was going on, four or five men, the chief of whom was a certain Murad, suspected of inciting to rebellion, were arrested; they were all sent to Bitlis.

About the middle of September and October the English Vice-Consul went to Moush and Bitlis to find out the details of all that had taken place. It is said that he wished also to visit the plundered villages, but was not allowed to pass by the Turkish authorities under the pretext of quarantine against cholera.

In general it is exceedingly difficult to obtain precise information as to what really occurred in those parts; hardly any communication exists between that locality and the rest of the rest of the world; of course there is no question of post or telegraph; travellers are looked upon with more than suspicion, and, on the other hand, many-tongued but intangible rumour is disposed to exaggerate enormously. It is believed, however, that what I have set forth above may be accepted with almost implicit confidence, seeing that all the information that I have communicated has been very carefully verified.

No. 522.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 587.)

My Lord, *Pera, December 20, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting that Mr. Behesnelian, though released on bail, is still detained at Marash.

It appears that the Vali of Adana has made several accusations against him, and that he is likely to be put into prison again on his return to Tarsus. I shall make renewed representations at the Porte on his behalf.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 522.

Consul Barnham to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Aleppo, December 10, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to my telegram of the 4th instant, that I have just received a letter from Mr. Krikor Behesnelian, dated Marash, 5th instant, from which I learn that this gentleman and his friends have been released on bail, but are still detained at Marash, notwithstanding the assurance of the Vali that they had been allowed to return to Tarsus.

Mr. Behesnelian asks me to take further steps to obtain permission for himself and his pupils to return, but as he states that the Vali of Adana has made several accusations against him, and shown a disposition to prevent his return by every possible means, it appears to me that he is very likely to be put in prison there a second time on some charge or other, so that it would perhaps be better that he should remain where he is for the present.

As this mail reaches Constantinople at an early date, I will await further instructions before moving in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. D. BARNHAM.

No. 523.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 265.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 26, 1894, 1·40 P.M.*

THE Representatives of France and Russia have spoken in strong terms to Said Pasha against the participation of Italy in the Sassoon inquiry, and even seem inclined to treat it as a breach of the arrangement which has been arrived at between the Porte and the three Powers.

M. Monaco, Vice-Consul at Adrianople, has been sent by the Italian Ambassador to Erzeroum, and the Porte has been asked to recognize him provisionally as Consul there. The matter will, I think, be arranged, but the consent of Said Pasha has not yet been obtained.

I have told the latter, as well as the Ambassador, that Her Majesty's Government would regard the participation of Italy with favour.

The Italians are being supported by Germany here.

The Italian Ambassador is to see Said Pasha again to-morrow, and until he has done so, I think it will be best to take no further steps.

The above is confidential.

No. 524.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 27, 1894, 7·10 P.M.*

I HAVE been informed by Mr. Terrell, the American Minister here, that any intention of sending a Consul to make an inquiry into the Sassoon affair has been for the present given up by the United States' Government.

No. 525.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 354.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 27, 1894.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 294 of the 19th instant, forwarding a copy of the note which, in accordance with your instructions, your Excellency addressed to the Russian Government announcing the intention of Her Majesty's Government to reserve the right of sending their Consul to attend the Bitlis Commission in person if necessary, and expressing the hope that the Russian Government would send instructions to Constantinople in the same sense.

I approve the terms of your Excellency's communication to M. de Giers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 526.

The Earl of Kimberley to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 28, 1894.*

THE telegrams which I have repeated to your Excellency from Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and St. Petersburgh, No. 101 of the 19th instant and No. 137 of the 24th instant respectively, will have made you acquainted with the views of the French and Russian Governments as to reserving the right of sending the Consuls at Erzeroum to the Bitlis Commission.

Your Excellency, after conferring with the French and Russian Representatives at Constantinople, should inform the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government will claim the right of dispatching their Consul to the Commission

as originally proposed by the Porte in the event of the Delegates' reports showing that the inquiry is not progressing in a satisfactory manner.

You should add that Her Majesty's Government understand that if they have to take this step, the same right will be claimed by the Governments of France and Russia.

No. 527.

*The Earl of Kimberley to the Marquis of Dufferin.**

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 28, 1894.*

I HAVE repeated to your Excellency a telegram I have sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople No. 149 of to-day, instructing him to inform the Porte of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to claim the right, if necessary, of sending their Consul at Erzeroum to the Bitlis Commission.

I request your Excellency to communicate the substance of this instruction to the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 528.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 29.)

(No. 267.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, December 29, 1894, 11·55 P.M.*

WITH regard to the participation of Italy in the Bitlis Commission, M. Catalani was informed by Said Pasha this afternoon that, in view of the fact that an understanding had been arrived at between four Powers respecting the Sassoon Inquiry, the participation of another Power cannot be consented to by any one of them without the agreement of the others.

On being asked by M. Catalani to state that the Porte had no objection, Said Pasha replied that he was unable to make such a statement owing to the pressure of Russia. The Foreign Minister added, confidentially, that Russia and France have declared that they will withdraw from the inquiry if Italy takes part in it.

No. 529.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Washington, December 21, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorial to the President, which has been forwarded to myself and my French and German colleagues, and which was adopted at a mass meeting held at Worcester, Massachusetts, to consider the Armenian massacres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 529.

Memorial.

To his Excellency Grover Cleveland, President of the United States:

WE learn with sorrow that in September last, without provocation, thousands of Armenians in and about Sassoon, Turkey, were brutally massacred. Among this number were many helpless women, upon whom the most barbarous atrocities were committed. In the eyes of civilization the opprobrium of this horror rests upon the Turkish Government, which is notoriously dilatory in its investigation of such matters, and now seems to prefer either to deny or to cover up well authenticated facts.

* Also to Sir F. Lascelles (No. 136).

It is believed that such a condition of affairs calls for the interference of Christian nations, and that our Government will be justified in demanding, in the name of common humanity, a fair and thorough investigation, the punishment of the perpetrators of this awful crime, and also a sacred pledge from the Turkish Government for the administration of such laws as shall be a sufficient guarantee in the future against the recurrence of such inhuman atrocities.

We, therefore, citizens of Worcester, Massachusetts, in mass meeting assembled, do most respectfully and earnestly pray that, in view of these things, you may take such immediate action as lies in your power to secure to the Armenians from the Turkish Government such reprisal for the past and such security for the future as shall be commensurate with the demand of modern civilization.

No. 530.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 588. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 22, 1894.

IN my despatch No. 575 of the 13th instant, I had the honour to submit to your Lordship a summary of the negotiations which had taken place up to that date respecting the dispatch of a Commission to inquire into the Sassoon incident.

On the evening of the 13th the Russian and French Ambassadors, who had just notified to the Porte their acceptance of the proposals that their Consuls at Erzeroum should take part in the inquiry, met at this Embassy. They urged that it would be better that the Consuls should not accompany the Commission themselves, but send Delegates.

I have reason to believe that one of the principal motives for making this suggestion was the inability of the Russian Consul at Erzeroum to undertake such a journey on account of his age and state of health.

My colleagues were of opinion that the status of the Consuls would render it impossible for them to limit themselves to superintending the Commission, and that they would be forced to take a more active part than was desired. The Delegates would feel this difficulty less, and without assuming the absolute direction of the Commission, would be able to influence its proceedings, and in case of difficulty would be able to appeal to their superiors at Erzeroum.

They considered that there was far more chance of ascertaining the truth by means of an Ottoman inquiry assisted by Europeans than by a European inquiry thwarted by the Ottoman authorities.

Your Lordship informed me by telegram the next day that for the sake of securing united action you were prepared to agree to this proposal; but you directed me to reserve the right of the Delegates to question the witnesses directly in case of necessity.

On the 15th the three Embassies made to the Sublime Porte the communication of which I have the honour to transmit a copy herewith respecting the dispatch of Delegates and their relations to the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 530.

Communication made by Dragomans of French and Russian Embassies to Said Pasha on December 15, 1894.

EN réponse à la proposition qui nous a été faite par la Porte nos Gouvernements ont autorisé nos Consuls à Erzeroum à se faire représenter auprès de la Commission d'Enquête par des Délégués spéciaux.

Ces Délégués recevront l'ordre d'accompagner la Commission et de l'assister dans toutes ses opérations en lui donnant toutes les indications utiles pour la guider dans ses investigations. Ils pourront suggérer au Président les questions qu'il leur paraîtrait nécessaire de faire poser aux témoins et les formuleraît eux-mêmes au besoin; ils prendront connaissance des procès-verbaux et des Rapports de la Commission et rendront compte à leurs chefs respectifs.

No. 531.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 591.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, respecting the prevailing ill-feeling against Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 531.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Trebizond, December* 17, 1894.

IN my interview with the Vali this morning, I drew his Excellency's attention to the present temper of the Turks towards Christians in general, and Armenians in particular. The bitter feeling, I observed, manifested by them may be confined to words only, but that they should speak almost openly of sparing or destroying, in the event of massacre, such or such a family of infidels, is an indication of a very perturbed state of mind which cannot and must not be ignored.

Cadri Bey replied that, not only he himself saw with great anxiety the strained relations existing at present, but shared with me the fear of such a possibility as a mere street quarrel attaining the dimensions of a serious public disturbance.

We then spoke at some length on the precautionary measures most recommendable under the circumstances. The plan suggested by his Excellency may, I think, be considered as efficacious. It is briefly this:—

1. What concerns the people: The dispersion of crowds, the suppression of abusive language, and the discontenance of political conversations in public, and as far as possible in private, places, through the medium of the police, clergy, and Notables.

2. What concerns the Executive: An increase in the number of gendarme stations, a wider patrol of the streets by the military, and a prompter report of riots by the police.

3. What concerns the governing and the governed: It is the speedy organization of night watchmen, which the Vali this month obtained the Porte's permission to create, and which will, perhaps, prove the greatest factor in the maintenance of public security. The insufficient guardians of the peace are thus to have soon a large auxiliary force at their disposal. This excellent arrangement, which is also to be adopted, I hear, in other parts of the Empire, will give the towns and villages of the Trebizond Vilayet some 6,700 watchmen, or six per 1,000 inhabitants, many of whom will be Christians, selected and paid by the people, but armed and controlled by the authorities.

Let me revert here before ending to the evinced enmity of the Mahommedans, which, though dormant, may on the slightest provocation break out into active animosity. The irritant seems to be a feeling of suspense as to the ultimate consequences of the Armenian troubles, aggravated by wild and loose reports of Armenian atrocities committed on Moslems in the interior. The unscrupulous are ready enough to work upon such emotions for their own ends. It is unfortunate that certain impressions exist likely to give them encouragement. They may argue that the Government, though anxious to prove the Armenians in the minority, will neither let them emigrate or live; and what may such a policy mean, but that the faithful may possess themselves of their belongings. Then again, that the Central Power treats their inveterate enemies with indulgence and distinction may appear to them unquestionable. It is immaterial when the Order of the Nishan-i-Imtiaz sot in

brilliants was bestowed on the Commander-in-chief of the IVth Army Corps, having been landed here, as it was, with great pomp, by the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, Major-General Vehbi Pasha, on the 24th ultimo, or sometime after the Sassoon massacres. The condign punishment of the recipient Zekki Pasha would most possibly reverse such an opinion, but whether the brother of a favoured Sultana, who recently gave birth to a Prince, can receive, if guilty, the treatment of a criminal, remains to be seen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 532.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 592.)
Constantinople, December 24, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 586 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting the attack on Musta's house at Sivas and unfair treatment of Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 532.

Consul Longworth to Sir P. Currie.

Trebizond, December 17, 1894.

Sir,

IN connection with my despatch of the 10th instant, I beg to send your Excellency the following extract of a letter from Dr. Jewett, giving some further particulars on the proceedings attending the attack on Hadjee Musta's house at Sivas:—

"As far as I have been able to learn the evidence that Armenians committed the robbery and assault at Hadjee Musta's house is based upon the general accusation against Armenians, the testimony of Memdouh Pasha's ex-servant Dikran, the confession of prisoners under torture, the finding of a knife at the scene of the assault which a knife-maker says he made for a certain Armenian, and the fact that the robbers called each other by Turkish names, it being supposed that if the robbers had been Turks they would not have used Turkish names in addressing each other.

"The Armenians claim to have the following evidence against the Turks:—

"Hadjee Musta told (my cavass and others) that his nephew was one of the robbers, and that the robbers talked like Turks. Five or six men testified that Turks were seen going to the house about the time of the robbery. Two Turks testified that a Turk bought the above-mentioned knife from the Armenians, and still owed 2 piastres for it. Traces of blood were found leading from Musta's house to a Turkish house. Blood was found on the shirt of one of the Turks arrested.

"The weakness of the case against the Armenians is indicated by the reported torturing of the Armenian prisoners, the report that yesterday the Mustantik cross-examined one of the prisoners and tried to make him sign a paper accusing Armenians of the robbery, and the Vali's effort to get the leading Armenians to sign a telegram to the Sultan acknowledging that Armenians committed this robbery and the Tokat robbery, and thanking the Government for prosecuting the rascals.

"The Vali says Memdouh Pasha's servant Dikran was seriously implicated in some seditious business about a year ago, and he does not think that Memdouh Pasha has anything to do with this affair.

"The Armenians employed by the Government, to the number of five or six, signed the above-mentioned telegram, the rest objected. They returned the telegram to the Vali with the few signatures. He tore it up and said that if they would not sign it they were all implicated, and he had no need of the telegram.

"Another point, if truthfully reported to me, may be regarded as significant. I am told that soon after the Musta robbery the Commissaire of Police telegraphed to the Vali, who was then in Tokat, that he had arrested the Turks implicated. The

Vali replied something like this: 'I approve of what you have done; hope no Armenian revolutionists are in it, and that you have left no point unexamined.' The Commissaire immediately went post-haste to Tokat, returned, and in a few days the Turks were set free and the Armenians imprisoned."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 533.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 593.)
Constantinople, December 25, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 583 of the 19th instant I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Angora respecting the Sabbatarianism at Cæsarea complained of by the Armenian Catholic Patriarch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 533.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir P. Currie.

Angora, December 20, 1894.

Sir,

WITH reference to the "official communication" reproduced in the "Levant Herald" of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the incident therein related not having come to my knowledge, I obtained information on the subject from the Vali, and also from the functionary therein referred to as "Deputy Defterdar." They confirmed the statements contained in the Patriarch's "Takrir," and told me that the man Ohannes was a Sabbatarian who had a few followers at Cæsarea, Ananian among the number.

Ohannes succeeded in evading the police, and fled; but Ananian has been sent to Constantinople, though not as a prisoner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 533.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of December 17, 1894.

YESTERDAY'S Turkish papers publish the following official communications: —

"In the 'Takrir' presented to the Grand Vizier by the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate, under date the 30th November, 1310, it is said that the man Ohannes, a native of Adana, and a student of the Armenian Protestant School, had gone to Cæsarea, and published there an offensive pamphlet against the other religions, and especially against the Roman Catholic clergy. The man was also going about the streets of the town preaching and seeking to establish a new religion, and had thus considerably agitated the population. With the object of putting an end to this agitation, the Armenian Bishop of Cæsarea applied to the Deputy Defterdar of the province, who was on a mission in that town. This functionary at once took measures for the withdrawal from circulation of all the copies of Ohannes' pamphlet, and ordered the arrest and imprisonment of the man Ananian, whom the said Ohannes had appointed his representative in Cæsarea. The 'Takrir' spoken of above thanked the Imperial Government for these measures."

No. 534.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 594. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 25, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the alleged orders of Zeki Pasha to slaughter the Sassoon Armenians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 534.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, November 6, 1894.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 4th instant, to which I have replied by telegraph to-day.

The cavalry General, Edhem Pasha, who has been for some time stationed at Moush, has just passed through Erzeroum on his way to Constantinople. I have learnt on excellent authority that while he was in Erzeroum he expressed the opinion that the officers chiefly answerable for the massacre of Armenians in Sassoon were Staff-Colonel Ismail Bey, who is now at Erzeroum, and the infantry Colonel, named Tewfik Bey. I heard on the same authority that the battalion of rifles from Erzingian took an active part in the excesses committed.

In reply to the inquiry contained in the latter part of your Excellency's telegram, it appears to me that if the Mushir Zeki Pasha is thus seriously compromised by the conduct of the troops under his orders, he may join with the Vali of Bitlis in contradicting the truth of the reports of Mr. Hallward. I fear that under present circumstances I have no means of insuring that Zeki Pasha should furnish a true report, but I would venture to suggest that Edhem Pasha should be interrogated on his arrival at Constantinople, that officer being in possession of the facts, and having, so far as I know, no strong personal interest in concealing them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 534.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 13, 1894.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have been privately informed that the Ferik Edhem Pasha, while at Moush, received telegraphic instructions from the Mushir Zeki Pasha, ordering the slaughter of the Sassoon Armenians. These orders he absolutely refused to carry out himself, and their execution then devolved upon Colonel Tewfik Bey. Edhem Pasha subsequently left Moush for Constantinople on his own demand, and is said to have taken the Mushir's telegrams with him, presumably for the purpose of communicating them to the Minister of War, who is his friend, and justifying his act of insubordination.

I had the honour to communicate the substance of the above to your Excellency by telegraph to-day.

I have, &c

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 535.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 595.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 25, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 558 of the 3rd December, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting one from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting Kurdish outrages in the Vilayets of Bitlis, Van, and Erzeroum, with particular reference to the murder and robbery at Bogaz-Kessen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 535.

Consul Graves to Sir P. Currie.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 6, 1894.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo,* I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting further details of the murder and robbery by Kurds at Bogaz-Kessen, and the arrest of a number of Armenians in connection with this crime.

Mr. Hallward adds some observations on the misconduct of certain Kurdish Chiefs, and especially of the notorious Hussein Pasha, of Patnotz, who formed the subject of my despatch to your Excellency of the 14th February last, and of numerous preceding despatches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 535.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, November 27, 1894.*

THE Yezeedi mentioned in my despatch of the 10th instant as having been killed by Kurds near Bogaz-Kessen was a young man appointed by the Government as watchman for the sheep of the village. His father, Semo by name, who was ill at the time of his murder, started for Van to lodge a complaint, but died on the way.

Another of his sons was killed last year by Kurds.

An officer went with some thirty zaptiehs to look for the sheep that were stolen, and while at Bogaz-Kessen was told that the robbers were in the mountain above the village.

Zaptiehs were sent to look for them, and, coming on the band, were fired on, one zaptieh being killed and another wounded. The zaptiehs then retired and the robbers escaped. The Government pretend that the robbers were Armenians, and some twelve or thirteen Armenians have been arrested, some in the village and others in the town, on the charge of giving supplies and help to the robbers. Among them is one Hacho Natanian, whose brother Garabed was exiled after the arrival of the present Vali some two and a-half years ago. Natanian has property in the village, and had gone there on business.

Another of those arrested is a butcher who sells meat in the principal street outside the town. As there are so many robbers about here, it is more than probable that the honesty of some of his customers is not above suspicion, but to hold a tradesman responsible for the character of his customers is a new and dangerous innovation in commercial law.

* Mr. Hallward's Report on state of Bitlis Vilayet.

There can be no real doubt that robbers were Kurds, but none of them were captured, and it is given out officially that they were Armenians.

The Kurdish Chiefs I mentioned in my despatch of the 10th instant are still here, but the Vali's advice to them to keep quiet does not seem to be producing much effect. The other day a Kurd left his sword in an Armenian's shop in the town, saying he would fetch it the next day, which he did. Afterwards he came again and asked for the sword, pretending not to have taken it, and then proceeded to beat the Armenian. A certain Saadoun Bey, a Hamidié officer, and son of Derboz Aga, mentioned in my aforesaid despatch, happened to pass by, and also beat the Armenian, and cursed him loudly. A neighbouring Turkish shopkeeper protested against this conduct, and called the police. The Chief of Police came, but Saadoun Bey told him he didn't recognize his authority or that of his superiors, and then walked off.

If we take into consideration the character of these Kurds as exemplified in the career of Hussein Pasha, of which an interesting sketch is given in Mr. Hampson's Report from Erzeroum of the 16th January, 1891, we are forced to the conclusion that something more than good advice is required to bring them into order.

Among Hussein's exploits mentioned in that Report are thirteen murders, nine villages burnt, five rapes, besides innumerable robberies of money, sheep, cattle, and property of all sorts, and other crimes. Since that date he has been made a Pasha, and he still continues his career unchecked, but varied by occasional visits to Erzeroum and Van. He came here on the present occasion in company with Reshid Bey, Kaïmakam of Adeljevaz, himself a Kurd, at the invitation of the Vali. He lives at Patnotz, in the Erzeroum Vilayet, but has property in this vilayet, and his raids have been carried on at different times over parts of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 536.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 596. Confidential.)

Pera, December 26, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of an interesting Confidential Report by Mr. Block as to the Sultan's views and feelings in regard to the dispatch of a Commission of Inquiry into the Sassoon incidents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 536.

Report by Mr. Block.

(Very Confidential.)

NOW that the Commission of Inquiry into the Sassoon incident is fairly started, it may be of interest to put on paper the impressions I have formed during the negotiations in almost daily interviews with the Grand Vizier, Saïd Pasha, or the Sultan's late First Secretary, Sureyya Pasha, and from the messages conveyed to me from the Sultan by Chamberlains, since the day your Excellency brought the subject to the knowledge of the Sultan early in November.

The Sultan has from the first known that a massacre of some kind took place in consequence of his orders, and hence his aversion to any inquiry.

His Majesty is firmly convinced—and he is encouraged in his belief by the misleading intelligence from Provincial Governors and evil counsel of his *entourage*—that there is widespread sedition among his Armenian subjects, and, like any other Oriental Ruler, his only method of dealing with dissatisfaction and revolt is to break and annihilate the authors of it. The Vali of Bitlis had informed the Palace and the Porte that thousands of Armenians had assembled in open rebellion, and the Sultan, in a moment of panic or irritation, gave orders to stamp out the movement and destroy the villages. It is said that even the Grand Vizier, who is the most

subservient tool of his Imperial master, hesitated to send on the orders, and did not come down that day to the Porte, but finally he was obliged to obey.

Sureyya Pasha's sudden death is attributed to one of three reasons:—

1. That the Sultan, finding out that he had been misled by the Vali of Bitlis, Hassan Tahsin, severely reproved and upbraided Sureyya, who had recommended him for the post.

2. That Sureyya Pasha had remonstrated against the Sultan's action, and referred to the sweeping instructions he had been ordered to convey to Zeki Pasha, and that thereupon there was a scene, in which the Sultan applied to him words of strong abuse, amongst others that of "traitor and dog of Armenian origin," Sureyya's grandfather having been a renegade.

3. That the Sultan had reprimanded and blamed Sureyya in no measured terms for having exaggerated his orders; but whatever the reason, Sureyya died of heart disease a few minutes after an interview, and there is no doubt there had been some difference of opinion between him and the Sultan with regard to the Sassoon incident and the Commission.

Zeki Pasha stated, either to the Palace or to Abdallah, who is said to have had a stormy interview with him at Erzingian: "I did not approve of these proceedings, but don't let them press me or make me speak out, for I still have the Sultan's orders by me written by Sureyya."

This was repeated by a person at the Palace, who now calls Zeki a traitor!

Mr. Hallward's despatch confirms this statement when he speaks of the Sultan's Firman being read out; and there seems no reasonable doubt that the general opinion in well-informed circles that the orders emanated from Yildiz is correct. Under present conditions, no Provincial Governor would dare to commit such acts without instructions, and had Hassan Tahsin done so he would have been instantly dismissed; on the contrary, the Sultan maintained him in his post.

It is not to be wondered at in these circumstances that the Sultan does not want a full inquiry.

He thought he could resist the isolated pressure of this Embassy by simple denials; he thought he could even accuse a British Consular official with impunity, and that we should remove him, for the note of the Porte was written by his orders.

When Colonel Chermside was suggested he immediately backed down, and was prepared to do anything to prevent his going; he withdrew the accusation against Hallward, which he said he had never believed in, and promptly suggested his own Commission, stating at the same time, however, that he did not admit the massacres, and that it was the Armenians who were to blame. He tried then to delay the departure of the Commission; its constitution from the first rendered it unlikely that the truth would be known, for a young General of Division would have but little weight with Marshal Zeki Pasha, a very powerful man closely connected with the Palace. Abdallah Pasha, the President, a fairly straight man, received such instructions that he refused to go at first, and was kept a close prisoner at Yildiz until his departure. Then came the official "Communiqué" to the press; the Grand Vizier and Saïd Pasha have said it was the mistake of a clerk, others after Sureyya's death attributed it falsely to him, for there is no doubt that it was inserted by the express orders of the Sultan, and the Grand Vizier told a foreign Ambassador that the Director of the Press had informed him that he had orders ("Iradé") from the Palace to publish it. Later came the telegram to Rustem, to the effect that the Commission would make "an impartial inquiry into facts and the reports relative to the incident of Sassoon:" these words were not in the "Iradé" of the Sultan, they were after much hesitation added by the Porte. Then followed a second "Communiqué" to the press by orders of the Sultan, which again contained the words "acts of brigandage."

In fact, the Sultan has never yet consented to an impartial inquiry into the acts of his officials, although the Porte quite understands it will have to come, but they have not dared to tell him, or have failed to convince him.

The proposal for an American was only prompted by the idea that the Porte could buy him as had been done on another occasion, and now that the United States are insisting the Porte will not consent. The Palace then suggested Blunt, Woods, or any other officer acting as aide-de-camp to the Sultan, always hoping to have a man under obligation to the Palace, or who could be hoodwinked.

Whilst the Porte has thus been struggling with us, and endeavouring to satisfy us that our assistance on the Commission is a thorough guarantee for an impartial inquiry, at the same time it has been trying to reconcile this view with the Sultan's idea which no one ventures to dispel (and even the French Embassy would seem to be

inclined to encourage), that there is no foreign intervention, and the Ministers and Palace still hope that they will succeed in evading the presence and assistance of foreign Delegates, and, in spite of them, will be able to hush up the affair, whitewash the culprits, and prevent the Sultan's orders from becoming known. Every delay has been of assistance; at the very beginning the local authorities began to rebuild houses, to remove all traces of massacre, and to put out of reach all who could give information. I know that these orders have quite recently been repeated. The Commission was in a hurry to get on the spot and get the job finished before our Delegates arrived, and the snow and difficulty of moving about is hailed with delight by the Palace. The Delegates will have to contend with all kinds of obstruction and chicanery, in which the Turkish official is a past master, and the climate and the preparations of the Vali will render their efforts almost powerless. Hassan Tahsin has received his instructions, and no one will venture to speak out unless he is assured of protection after the Commission leaves. I am informed that already the Vali has informed the Porte that a new movement on the part of the Armenians is preparing, and that he had sent spies to investigate; this is impossible, with the winter season so far advanced, and can only be alleged with the object of either distracting attention from the Sassoon incident, or of tightening his hold on the Armenians with the object of scaring them from coming forward to give evidence.

In connection with this point, I may say that the future causes much anxiety to the Armenians, and one of the most influential and straightforward men of the Patriarchate stated to me yesterday that if now they are deserted by us, their existence will become almost impossible.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

December 25, 1894.

No. 537.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 598.) *Pera, December* 26, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the instructions addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Turkish Commission of Inquiry into the recent events in the Sassoon district.

These instructions were communicated verbally on the 21st instant to Mr. Block by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I have sent copies of them, both in Turkish and in translation, to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, for his information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 537.

Instructions to be given to the Commission charged with the investigation into the Sassoon affair.

THE duty of the said Commission being to carry out an inquiry and investigation into the Sassoon incident, the Imperial Government, in order once more to show its sincere and impartial (fair) intention to that end, has obtained the consent (of the three Powers) to sending Delegates of the French, Russian, and English Consuls at Erzeroum to the said Commission.

The Commission will carry out the necessary inquiries with the greatest impartiality and fairness, and with regard to all Ottoman subjects without exception.

The Commission will make reports containing the result of the inquiries, and will show them as soon as they are made successively to the foreign Delegates, and will ask them if they have any observations to make or not.

The Delegates will be present at the inquiries of the Commission, they will have questions put by the President, and, if the President refuses so to do, they are to be able to formulate the questions themselves, and in case of need ("au besoin"), to put them themselves.

The inquiry is to be confined to the events of Sassoon.

The Delegates will not have the position of members, but will act in conformity with these instructions *as assisting the Commission* (as in conjunction with the Commission).

No. 538.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 599. Confidential.) *Pera, December* 26, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the instructions to our Delegates on the Sassoon Commission, which have been agreed on by the Russian and French Ambassadors in concert with myself, subject to the approval of our respective Governments. A summary of these instructions has been already telegraphed to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 538.

Instructions to Delegates on the Sassoon Commission.

L'ENQUÊTE ordonnée par la Porte doit porter exclusivement sur les faits dont le caza de Sassoon a été le théâtre dans le courant de l'été dernier et qui ont ému l'opinion publique.

C'est à l'autorité Ottomane qu'il appartient de procéder à l'enquête. Les Puissances représentées à Erzeroum, ayant été invitées par la Porte à seconder l'action de la Commission, ont autorisé leurs Consuls à se faire représenter auprès de la Commission par des Délégués qui doivent se borner à une mission de contrôle et de surveillance.

Leur rôle est de s'assurer que l'enquête est conduite avec impartialité et bonne foi et que toutes les mesures sont prises pour assurer sa sincérité.

Les Délégués rédigeront, en conséquence, un procès-verbal collectif et journalier des opérations auxquelles ils assisteront. Ils y mentionneront tous les incidents de l'enquête et les difficultés que pourrait rencontrer l'exercice de leur mission. Ces procès-verbaux seront régulièrement adressés à MM. les Consuls avec des Rapports complémentaires, s'il y a lieu. Les Consuls les feront parvenir à leur tour à leurs Ambassades avec leurs rapports personnels.

L'enquête une fois terminée, les Délégués rendront compte à MM. les Consuls de ses résultats et de leurs appréciations.

En outre, ils consigneront, dans un Rapport d'ensemble, les points sur lesquels ils seront tombés d'accord et les appréciations qui leur seront communes.

MM. les Consuls apprécieront à leur tour les faits de l'enquête dans des Rapports adressés à leurs Ambassades.

Les Délégués assisteront à toutes les séances de la Commission; ils l'accompagneront dans ses déplacements; ils devront avoir connaissance de toutes ses investigations et recevoir chaque jour communication de ses procès-verbaux.

Si ces procès-verbaux leur semblent contenir des inexactitudes, ils en demanderont la rectification. Au cas où elle leur serait refusée ils demanderaient l'insertion de leurs observations, et si cette insertion même était écartée, ils prendraient acte des refus et référeraient à leurs Consuls.

Les Délégués fourniront à la Commission tous les renseignements de nature à l'éclairer, ils la dirigeront au besoin dans ses recherches en lui indiquant les lieux où elles pourraient s'exercer avec fruit et les personnes dont le témoignage offrirait quelque utilité.

Au cours des interrogatoires des témoins, ils pourront leur faire poser par le Président toute question de nature à éclairer l'enquête. Si la question leur semblait mal posée par le Président, ils pourraient la formuler ou la poser eux-mêmes, mais ils ne recourraient à ce moyen que dans le cas où son emploi leur paraîtrait indispensable pour dégager la vérité.

No. 539.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 600.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 26, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, through Mr. Graves, reporting Kurdish outrages and a general spirit of hostility of the Administration to Christians in that vilayet.

I am calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the case of Manoug.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 539.

Vice-Consul Hallward to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Van, December* 1, 1894.

AN unpleasant story was reported a fortnight ago by a peasant from the village of Senboun, in the district of Kessendere to the south of the lake, Caza of Garchican, in this vilayet. An Armenian named Manoug, of that village, was flayed alive and then burnt by Kurds, relations or dependents of a certain Moussa Bey (not to be confounded with him of that name now in exile). There had been some quarrel between the Armenians and Kurds about forest land, and the latter revenged themselves in this barbarous fashion.

The peasant declared that he had himself seen the atrocity committed, but I was loth to take it as a fact on his evidence alone; subsequently, however, I heard the story confirmed on good authority. Moussa Bey came to town after this occurrence and remained about a week, but has now returned to his village. Some Kurds have, I understand, been arrested.

A Turkish employé of the Tobacco Régie, who was shot in the leg near the town by a Kurd six or seven weeks ago, has died of his wound. His assassin has not been apprehended.

The Head of the Gendarmerie and the zaptiehs who were sent to Bogaz-Kessen, as reported in my despatch of the 27th ultimo, on their way back visited Archag, a large Armenian village about 15 miles from Van, and searched many of the houses in which Armenian fugitives from justice were supposed to be in hiding. No fugitives were discovered, but a great deal of expense and annoyance was undergone by the villagers, who had to entertain a considerable number of zaptiehs for several days.

The Head of the Gendarmerie was quartered in the house of the village priest; he remarked to him that though personally friendly to him, he could not but think he deserved death like all other Armenians of their district, as they were rebels against the Sultan. I quote this remark because it reflects the spirit of the Administration, which is fanatical and hostile to all Christians. The word "giaour," an opprobrious Turkish term meaning "infidel," is frequently used in the Government offices here as a synonym for Christian by the inferior officials. I have heard the word used by lower class Turks, apparently without any designedly offensive meaning, simply as a synonym for Christian, but in the mouth of a Turkish official it undoubtedly has the significance of a term of reproach and contempt, and is so understood by the Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 540.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 606.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1894.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 599 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch in which I have conveyed

to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum the identic instructions respecting the Sassoon Commission which I have agreed upon with my Russian and French colleagues, and directing him to send Mr. Shipley as his Delegate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 540.

Sir P. Currie to Consul Graves.

Sir, *Pera, December* 21, 1894.

THE Sublime Porte has decided to send a Commission to inquire into recent events in the Caza of Sassoon. This investigation will be concerned exclusively with the incidents which took place in that district last summer, and which have aroused public opinion in Europe.

The inquiry is undertaken by the Ottoman Government, but the Porte having requested the assistance of the Powers having Consuls at Erzeroum, the latter have authorized their Consuls to send Delegates, whose mission is limited to superintending and supervising the proceedings of the Commission. Their duty will be to see that the inquiry is absolutely fair and impartial, and that all precautions are taken to insure its *bona fides*. They will accordingly draw up every day a collective Report of the proceedings, at which they will be present. They will record therein all that takes place, and any difficulties which they may encounter in the exercise of their mission.

These Reports will be regularly sent to the Consuls, with the comments of the Delegates.

The Consuls will forward them to their respective Embassies with any observations they may have to offer.

On the termination of the inquiry the Delegates will report its results and their comments to the Consuls, and will also record in a joint Report the points on which they are agreed and the conclusions which they share.

In forwarding their final Reports to their Embassies, the Consuls will add any observations they may desire to make on the inquiry.

The Delegates will be present at all the sittings of the Commission. They will accompany it everywhere. They will be kept informed of all its investigations, and will receive every day Minutes of its proceedings. Should they consider these Minutes inaccurate, they will ask that they should be corrected. In case of refusal they will claim that their observations should be inserted in the Minutes. Should this also be refused, they will take act of the refusal, and refer to their Consuls. They will lay before the Commission all information likely to throw light on the inquiry, and they will, when necessary, direct its researches by pointing out such places or persons as can profitably be examined.

During the examination of witnesses they may ask the President to put any question likely to facilitate the inquiry, and should they consider that any question is wrongly put, they will have the right to formulate it or to put it themselves, but they will have recourse to this latter mode of procedure only when it seems to them indispensable for ascertaining the truth.

You will appoint Mr. Shipley as your Delegate, and concert with your colleagues as to the time and manner of his departure.

The Turkish Government have been requested to give instructions to the Commission to await the arrival of the Delegates, and have been informed that any proceedings or inquiries that may take place in their absence will be considered as null and void.

I inclose herewith a copy of the French text of the instructions given to the French and Russian Delegates.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 541.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 309.)
St. Petersburgh, December 27, 1894.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 137 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the private note which Count Kapnist addressed to me on that day to inform me that the Russian Government have no objection to the eventual participation of an English Consul in the inquiry in Armenia, with the reservation of the same right to a Russian Consul.

Count Kapnist adds that the above information has been communicated to Constantinople and Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Count Kapnist to Sir F. Lascelles.

Le 12 (24) *Décembre*, 1894.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE m'empresse de vous informer que nous n'objectons pas à la participation éventuelle d'un Consul Anglais à l'enquête en Arménie, en réservant le même droit à un Consul Russe. Ce qui précède a déjà été communiqué à Constantinople et Paris.

Mille sincères hommages,
(Signé) D. KAPNIST.

No. 542.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 450.)
Paris, December 29, 1894.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 108 of yesterday, I have communicated to the French Government the substance of the instructions addressed to Sir P. Currie respecting the reservation of the right to send Consuls to attend the Commission appointed to inquire into the alleged massacre of Armenians in the Vilayet of Bitlis in the event of the progress of the inquiry proving unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 543.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 452.)
Paris, December 30, 1894.

My Lord,

M. DUPUY, the President of the Council, who has undertaken to replace M. Hanotaux for the present at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having requested me to call, I waited upon his Excellency this afternoon. He then begged me to convey to your Lordship the opinion of the French Government that it was not desirable to modify in any respect the arrangements which had been arrived at at Constantinople between Russia, England, and France, and the Porte in reference to the procedure to be adopted for the investigation of the recent troubles in the Vilayet of Bitlis. Any modification of those arrangements would, in the opinion of himself and of his colleagues, provide His Majesty the Sultan with an excuse for initiating further

negotiations, which might be indefinitely prolonged, to the great prejudice of the object which Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Republic had in view.

In conveying to me this intimation, his Excellency mentioned the desire of the Italian Government to take part in the investigation; and I gathered that the real object of his communication was to intimate that the French Government would regard unfavourably any such suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 544.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Madrid, December 30, 1894.

THE Sultan has urged the Pope to use his good offices with Austria, France, Germany, and Spain to induce them to intervene with Her Majesty's Government and Russia to moderate their requirements in Armenia. Señor Groczard has been unofficially communicated with.

The Pope is gratified at being thus appealed to, for the first time, by the Porte, and is anxious that the interests of the Armenian Catholics should not be subservient to those of the Orthodox Christians.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised me a Memorandum on the subject.

No. 545.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Constantinople, December 31, 1894, 2 P.M.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Bahri Pasha, referred to in your despatch No. 389, has resigned his appointment as Vali of Kharput.

No. 546.

Sir P. Currie to the Earl of Kimberley.—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
Constantinople, December 31, 1894, 2 P.M.

THE Grand Vizier states that, in his opinion, M. Behesnelian is not an innocent person, and is accused of editing or publishing an objectionable newspaper. His Highness has, however, telegraphed for further details.